

SHU-702-11111

HISTORY OF ICHALKARANJI JAHAGIR

**A THESIS SUBMITTED TO THE
SHIVAJI UNIVERSITY, KOLHAPUR**

**FOR THE DEGREE OF
DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY
IN
HISTORY**

BY
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M. A., M. Phil.

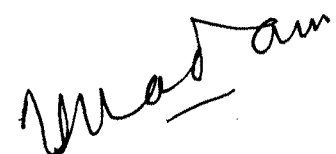
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DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the thesis entitled
'HISTORY OF ICHALKARANJI JAHAGIR'
completed and written by me has not previously
formed the basis for the award of any Degree or
Diploma or other similar title of this or any other
University or examining body.

Place : Kolhapur

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C E R T I F I C A T E


This is to certify that the thesis entitled

‘HISTORY OF ICHLKARANJI JAHAGIR’

which is being submitted herewith for the award of the

DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN HISTORY

of Shivaji University, Kolhapur is the result of the original research work completed by Shri. S. S. PATIL under my supervision and guidance and to the best of my knowledge and belief the work embodied in this thesis has not formed earlier the basis for the award of any Degree or similar title of this or any other University or examining body.



Place : Kolhapur

Date: **30 NOV 1998**

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ABBREVIATIONS

- | | | |
|-----------|---|--------------------------------|
| 1. K.A. | - | Kolhapur Archives |
| 2. N.A. | - | National Archives |
| 3. I.M.R. | - | Ichalkaranji Municipal Records |
| 4. G.P.B. | - | General Proceeding Books |
| 5. S.S.L. | - | Sanshanatil Lokashahicha Ladha |

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P R E F A C E

The History of Ichalkaranji Jahagir in the erstwhile Princely state of Kolhapur is the History of the internecine feuds within the Maratha Empire and particularly of the conflict between the Ichalkaranji Jahagir and the Kolhapur state. The house of Ichalkaranji tracing its origin back to the middle of the 17th century, has had long an honourable record. Naro Mahadeo, the founder of the Ichalkaranji Jahagir a member of the Konkanastha Brahmin cast was a astrologer (Joshi) by profession and rose to prominence due to the patronage of the Ghorpade family. Ichalkaranji, being in the vicinity of Kolhapur, was utilised by Poona Government as a check to the power of Kolhapur.

On 18 June 1892, Shrimant Narayanrao Govindrao alias Babasaheb Ghorpade accessed to the Ichalkaranji gadi. He continued to be in the office till December 1943, when he expired. He ruled Ichalkaranji principality able for more than fifty years.

✓ The subject is Ichalkaranji jahagir and therefore it falls in the category of local history which is a part of the national history. All the aspects - economic, social educational, administrative and political - have been covered.

During the course of the present research work I have studied original sources, and mainly unpublished sources. Among the published sources mention must be made of a few writers who have written books on the history of

Ichalkaranji jahagir. In 1913, V.V.Khare wrote a book in Marathi, "Ichalkaranji Sansthanacha Itihas". N.D.Tamhankar also wrote a book in Marathi entitled, "Shrimant Narayanrao Babasaheb Ghorpade, Ichalkaranji", in 1951. The main merit of this work in my view, is the use of unpublished original documents which are housed in the National Archives, New Delhi, Bombay Archives, Mumbai and Kolhapur Archives, Kolhapur, in the present work moreover unpublished municipal records has been used. In the secondary sources books, magazines and news-papers both English and Marathi have been consulted.

By the very nature of the subject, historical method had to be used. An attempt has been made to base the statements on contemporary primary sources by observing strict objectivity.

The work has been divided into eight chapters. The first chapter is by way of introduction to the thesis and gives a survey of geographical, political, administrative, educational and economic developments prior to 1892. Economic, administrative and social reforms introduced by Narayanrao Govindrao alias Babasaheb Ghorpade are studied in the second chapter. The third chapter is concerned with administration i.e. municipal administration in Ichalkaranji.

The fourth chapter makes an attempt at covering all the aspects of educational movement. Ichalkaranji is famous as the Manchester of Maharashtra. The growth of the textile industry, co-operative movement and labour movement is studied in the fifth chapter. The freedom movement in the

Ichalkaranji jahagir has been studied in the two chapters : sixth and seventh. The last that is eighth chapter is an epilogue which contains a brief summary and research findings.

I am most thankful to various persons and institutions, for the help in completing the present research work.

It gives me pleasure to express my feelings of respect and gratitude towards my guide, Dr. V. S. Kadam, Professor and Head Department of History, Shivaji University Kolhapur. It was essentially due to his inspiring, sympathetic, valuable and consistent guidance that I could complete my work.

I am thankful to the faculty of department of History in encouraging me in my research work.

I express my sincere thanks to Ex-Prin. Dr. A. B. Dige, I/C Prin. Prof. K. S. Shewade, Dr. G. D. Nadgonde, Shri. A. L. Patil, Dr. N. K. Patil, Dr. A. N. Damale, Dr. P. K. Deshmukh, Shri. S. S. Kittad, Shri. A. S. Marathe, Shri. S. B. Kanase, Shri. S. P. Gidde, Shri. B. V. Valgadde, Dr. S. R. Patil, Shri. S. K. Patil and my other colleagues for encouraging me to complete my work.

The archival material for the thesis was collected from Ichalkaranji archives, Ichalkaranji, Kolhapur archives, Kolhapur, Bombay archives, Mumbai and National archives, New Delhi. I express my gratitude to the staff of Ichalkaranji, Kolhapur, Bombay and National archives.

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I wish to thank the librarians and staff of library at Shivaji University, Y.C.Warana Mahavidyalaya, Rajaram ~~Collage~~ and Apte Vachan Mandir Ichalkaranji.

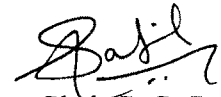
I am thankful to the University Grants Commission, New Delhi for providing me financial aid to complete this work. I thank Shri. Jagtap, Cartographer of Geography department of Shivaji University Kolhapur for helping me in preparing maps.

All this work was made possible by the patient support of the members of my family.

I am thankful to Mr. Shrishail Kittad, Mr. Vipin Bendale & Mr. Haridas Gaikwad, for neatly computerising the thesis in stipulated time.

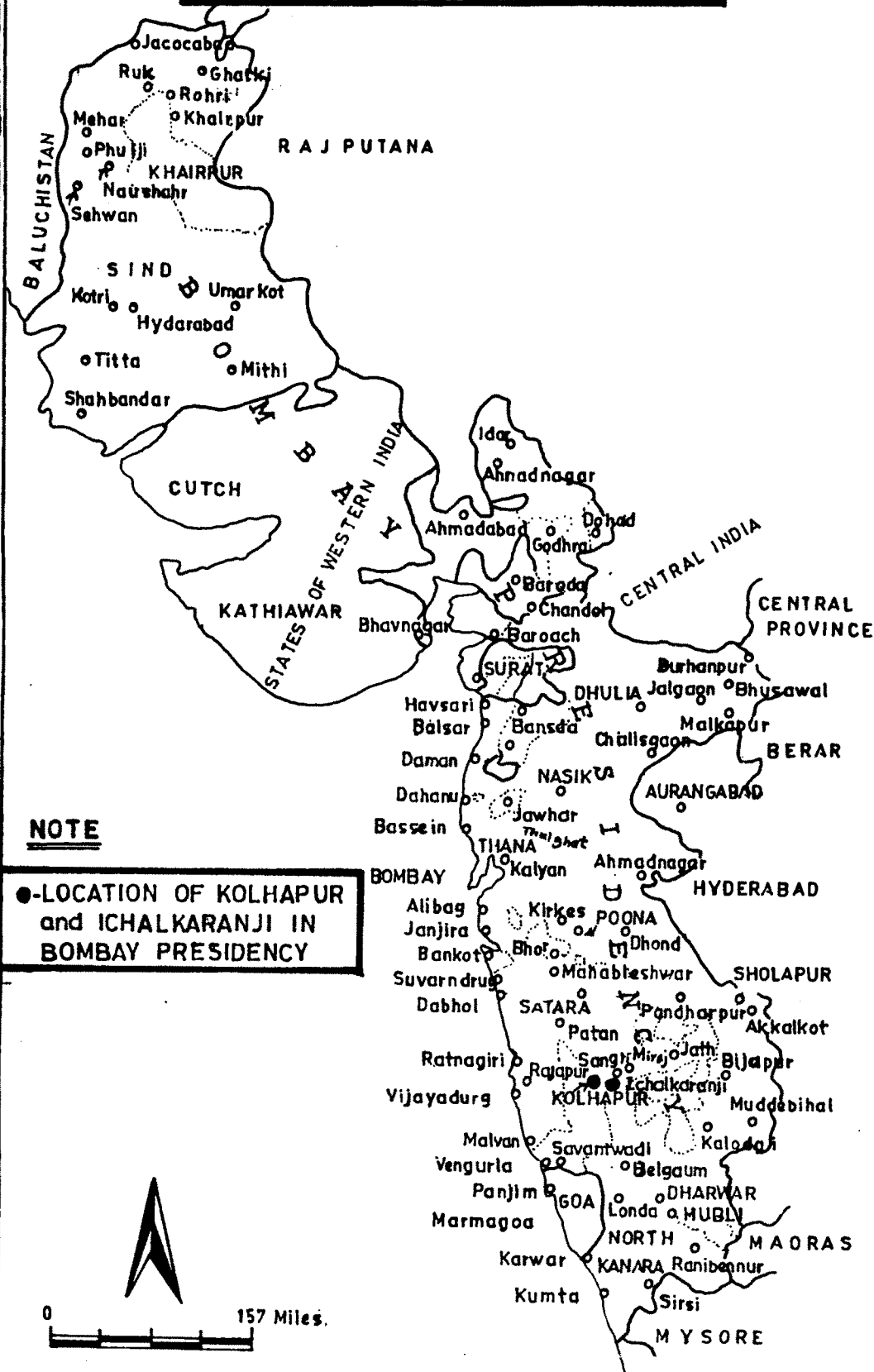
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Date : **30 NOV 1998**


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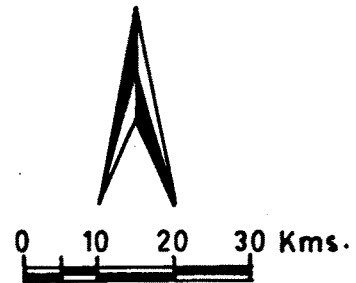
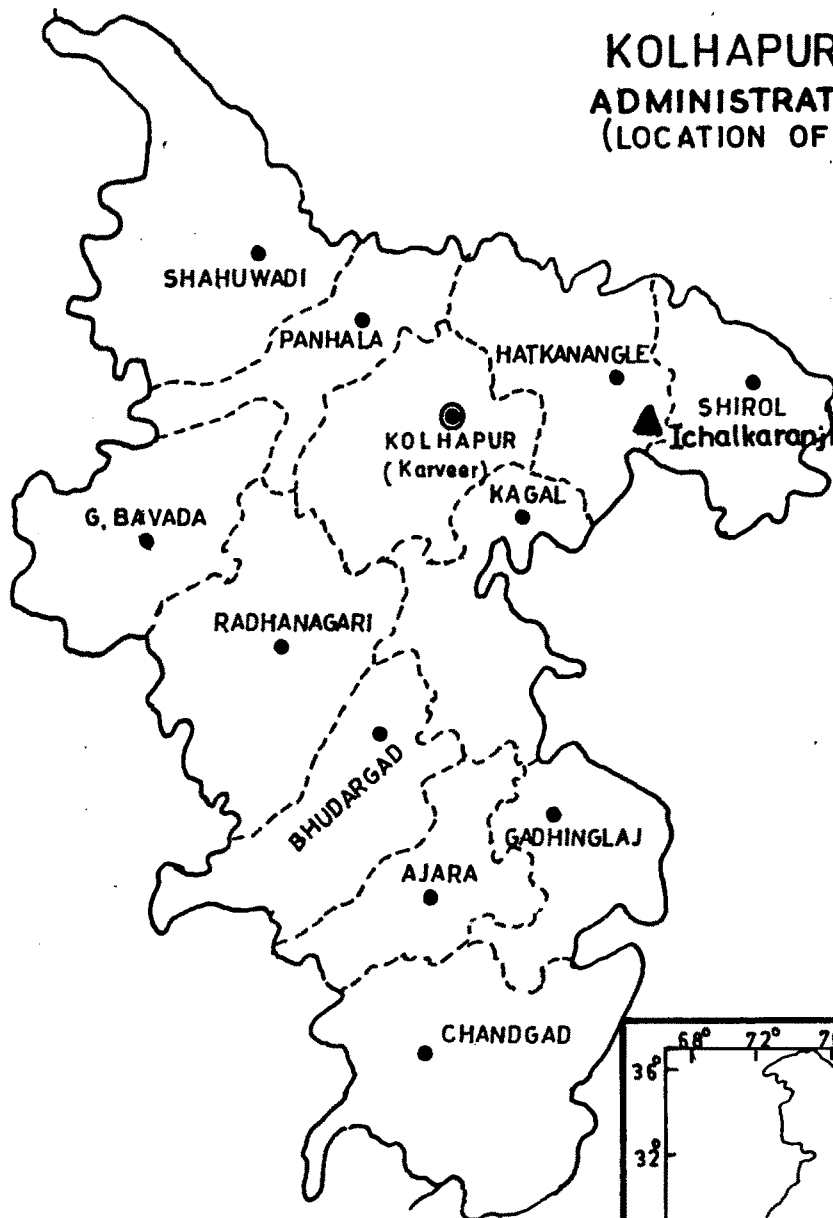
CHAPTER - I
INTRODUCTION

BOMBAY PRESIDENCY



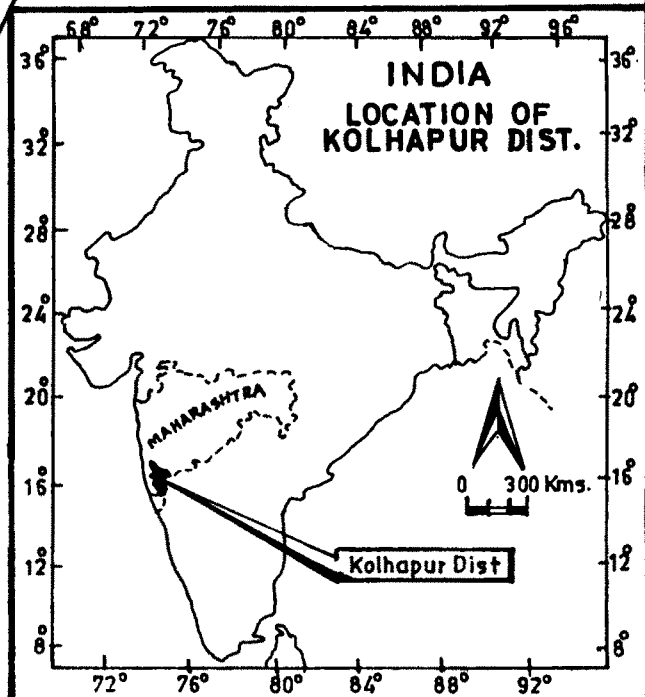
SOURCE:-B.A. Judicial Department Vol. 7, 1983, P 274.

KOLHAPUR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISIONS (LOCATION OF ICHALKARANJI)

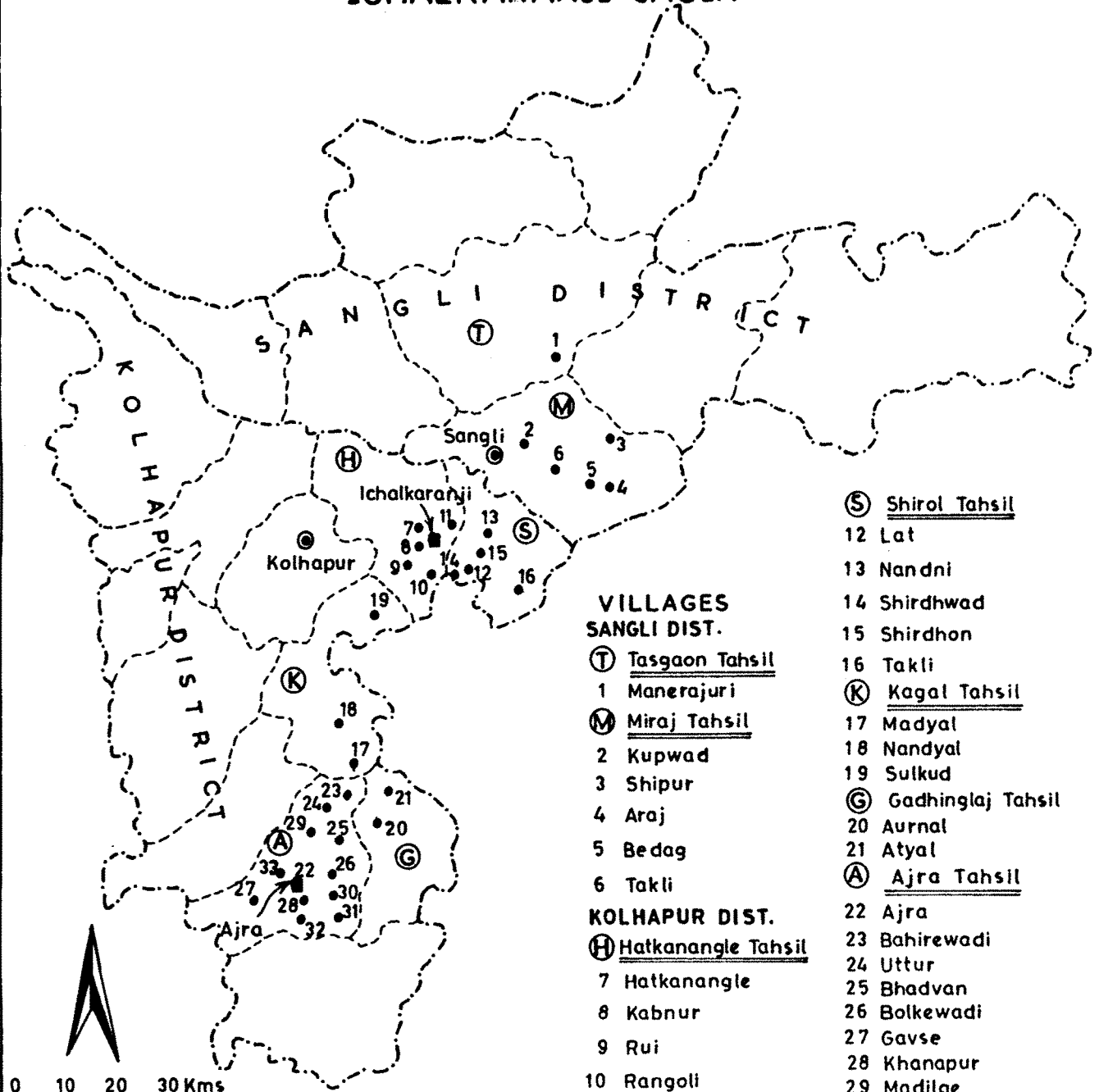


INDEX

- DISTRICT H. Q.
- TAHSIL H. Q.
- DISTRICT BOUNDARY
- TAHSIL BOUNDARY



VILLAGES INCLUDED IN ICHALKARANJI JAGIR



VILLAGES SANGLI DIST.

T Tasgaon Tahsil

1 Manerajuri

M Miraj Tahsil

2 Kupwad

3 Shipur

4 Araj

5 Bedag

6 Takli

KOLHAPUR DIST.

H Hatkanangle Tahsil

7 Hatkanangle

8 Kabnur

9 Rui

10 Rangoli

11 Tardal

S Shirol Tahsil

12 Lat

13 Nandni

14 Shirdhwad

15 Shirdhon

16 Takli

K Kagal Tahsil

17 Madyal

18 Nandyal

19 Sulkud

G Gadhinglaj Tahsil

20 Aurnal

21 Atyal

A Ajra Tahsil

22 Ajra

23 Bahirewadi

24 Uttur

25 Bhadvan

26 Bolkewadi

27 Gavse

28 Khanapur

29 Madilge

30 Mendholi

31 Shirsangi

32 Polgaon

33 Sohale

----- District boundary
----- Tahsil boundary
● District H. Q.

■ Major Jagir Centres
● Villages included in Jagir

CHAPTER - I

INTRODUCTION

Ichalkaranji was native State, a feudatory to the Kolhapur State, within the Political Agency of Kolhapur and Southern Maratha Country, Bombay Presidency. According to the Census of 1872, its area was 201 square miles, the population of Ichalkaranji was 59,330, and its gross revenue was £21,223. According to 1881 Census, the population was 55,848 and the gross revenue was £21,466.¹

Ichalkaranji lies in the Panchaganga Valley about eighteen miles east of Kolhapur and half a mile north of the river Panchganga in Hatkanangale Taluka. It is six miles away from south-east of Hatkanangale railway station. The town is said to be formed of seven hamlets. Its longitude is 74°25'E and latitude is 16°40'N.²

According to the 1941-42 Census, Ichalkaranji Jahagir consisted of an area of some 241 square miles and its population was eighty three thousand. "The total income of Jahagir was Rs. 1,96,748 in the year 1892-93 and in 1941-42 it became Rs. 3,47,363."³

It means that during the regime of Shrimant Narayanrao Babasaheb Ghorpade, the total income of Ichalkaranji Jahagir increased quite significantly.

Ichalkaranji had three outlets to the highway between Miraj and Kolhapur, a highway which parallels the highway and on which there are good motor services. One outlet runs north to Hatkanangale which is a railway station, the second outlet towards the north-east joins the highway about six miles further east and is itself about six miles in length, while the third, running north-west, connects west of Hatkanangale and about seven miles away. There is fourth good outlet a mile and a quarter from the centre of the town. All these were good motor roads and their services. ⁴

Mr. J.L. Goheen who was an administrator of Ichalkaranji, has given description of Ichalkaranji town as it looked in 1934. He writes in his book "The Glimpses of Ichalkaranji" as under :

"Approaching the town from the road coming from Hatkanangale, one enters Ichalkaranji territory where the road begins to be lined with Banyan trees, some two miles out from town of Ichalkaranji. From this point, one can see the palace towers off in the distance to the south-east. A mile further on, there is an abrupt turn to the left from which point the attractive guest-

house, 'Hava Mahal' is seen about a furlong to the south, set in a grove of shady trees. Making this turn, the road leads towards the town proper, and soon ginning factories and a prominent baling press, to the right are passed. This is the new extension of the town and one observes that a large square water cistern, above ground, has recently been constructed to meet the needs of the population of this section". ⁵

AREA OF ICHALKARANJI JAHAGIR :

"There were eighty villages in Ichalkaranji territory. The whole area, with the exception of Ichalkaranji itself, being rural. This territory was divided into two Talukas, viz. Ajara and Ichalkaranji, the former containing about seventy villages. The villages lying in Ichalkaranji Taluka, however, were much smaller in number, but all of the villages therein were considerably larger in population and area, furnishing more revenue than those of the hilly Ajara section". ⁶

It is most difficult to define the boundary of Ichalkaranji Jahagir, as so many of ~~its~~ villages are detached to the villages to throughout the Kolhapur State and the Konkan.

The principal portion, however, may be defined as bounded by the Meeraj and Koorundwad districts on the east, the Alta Petha Mamlatdaree to the north, the Karveer Mamalatdaree on the west and the Kagal with the portion of Belgaum to the south". ⁷

LAND, CROPS, RAINFALL AND CLIMATE OF ICHALKARANJI:

The soil of the villages in lands above the Ghats are chiefly black with a considerable quantity of red and alluvial deposit and that of the villages below the Ghats are the same, with the exception of red. In this Jahagir , irrigation is resorted by means of the Moat from Panchaganga river and well of which there are a considerable number.

"The productions are grains of various sorts, Tobacco, Ghee, Goor, Rice, Vegetables, Sugarcane, Cotton and Country cloth. In common with other dependence of the State, the population is agricultural and manufacturers are restricted to for Kunbees and cotton cloths, some of which, however, are exported. Iron is found in small quantities".⁸

"Rain is less certain in the Jahagir , being too distant from the Ghats, but it is nevertheless mainstay and seldom wholly fails. The climate bears the same

character of the whole Jahagir, perhaps a little warmer as it is removed from the hills".⁹

In short, the general appearance of this Jahagir above the Ghats was flat, trees being restricted to the villages. The Konkan lands were well wooded.

(II) HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF ICHALKARANJI:

(A) Early Period - Political Relations With Kapashi-

The House of Ichalkaranji, tracing its origin back to the middle of the 17th century, has had a long and honourable record.

"A poor Brahmin widow, by the name of Joshi, came to Kapashi with her only son Naro Mahadeo from Mhapan, near Vengurla in the Ratnagiri district, where the brave Santaji Ghorpade, one of the faithful generals of Shivaji, lived. Naro Mahadeo early took a keen interest in the cavalry horses of this general and one day, persuaded the syce to allow him to ride a fiery war horse to the river to water. This was observed by the alert Santaji's eyes and both fame and fortune were his ultimate reward. He proved an able lieutenant to the brave Senapati, who affectionately styled him his son and eventually, Naro Mahadeo

assumed the surname of 'Ghorpade' as a sign of respect towards the Senapati family".¹⁰

Naro Mahadeo, the founder of the Ichalkaranji Jahagir, was one of the pioneers of the Konkanastha Brahmin who came to ghats from Konkan in the middle of the 17th century. Joshi was the original surname of the family.

"Naro Mahadeo joined the service of Santaji Ghorpade, the famous Maratha General of Rajaram under whom he proved to be an able lieutenant."¹¹

Parasnis records reveal the following information about the mutual relationship between Naro Mahadeo and Senapati Ghorpade of Kapashi, "A youngster Naro Mahadeo Joshi Mhapankar of taluka Kudal was in the employ of Santaji Ghorpade. When he was on a campaign, Naro Mahadeo served him loyally; hence, Santaji called him his son, awarded him Ichalkaranji Saranjam for military services".¹²

In 1701, Laxmibai, a wife of Naro Mahadeo, gave birth to Venkatrao. As it was believed that the boy was born due to the blessings of Venkoba of Giri, Naro Mahadeo accepted Venkoba as his family deity.

It is not definitely known when Naro Mahadeo actually dies, but Mr. V.V. Khare writes in his book named "Ichalkaranji Sansthanacha Itihas", his death took place sometime between 1718 and 1720.

Naro Mahadeo left behind his wife Laxmibai, his son Venkatrao and a lot of faithful followers and admirers to mourn his loss.

(B) Ichalkaranjkar Ghorpade During Peshwa Period :

Venkatrao Narayan-I (1701to1745)

At the time of death of Naro Mahadeo, his son Venkatrao was about seventeen to eighteen years old. Therefore, Haribhatbaba and his sons Krishnabhat and Trimbakpant looked after the family.

“Venkatrao, the son of Naro Mahadeo, was married to Anubai, the youngest daughter of Balaji Vishwanath Bhat, who very soon became the Peshwa of Shahu of Satara Branch of Shivaji’s family”.¹³

Under Peshwa Bajirao -I , Poona became the seat of power of the Peshwa. Venkatrao and his wife Anubai spent part of their time each year in that centre. By the reason of this alliance with peshwa, the House of Ichalkaranji came into prominence, Venkatrao became a Sardar of Shahu Maharaja of Satara.

Ichalkaranji was a part of Deshmukhi Vatan enjoyed Dilerkhan, Foujdar of Miraj. In one of the earliest reference in document of 29/12/1720, Ichalkaranji is referred to a kasaba (a village with a

mart). Raigonda Algonda Patil of village Pattan - Kodoli in karyat Ichalkaranji gave yejit -khat (Resignation) admitting that the Deshmukhi of four karyats namely kasaba Sangli, Rukdi, Vadgaon and Ichalkaranji from Dilerkhan, Foujadar of Miraj was illegal. The yejit-khat was given to Piraji, son of Santaji Ghorpade who was been refer to as Noukas - Desai of Mamla Miraj.¹⁴ This document establishes the right of Senapati Ghorpade family over the region covered by the four karyats mentioned above.

Chhatrapati Sambhaji I of Kolhapur on 24 June 1731, gave in grant Kasaba Ichalkaranji to Ranoji, son of Piraji Ghorpade.¹⁵ The villages which came within the karyat of Ichalkaranji were Kodoli, Hupri, Rendal, Sulkud, Shiradwad, Dattawad and Lat. The Sardeshmukhi of these seven villages was given by the Chhatrapati Of Kolhapur to Ranoji Ghorpade on 29 June 1731.¹⁶ In 1736 the village Ichalkaranji was Taluka Rukadi. The village was given in Innam by Chhatrapati Sambhaji of Kolhapur to Ranoji, Son of Piraji Ghorpade.¹⁷ In 1738 Chhatrapati Shahu wrote a letter to Baloji Salokhe warning him not to trouble, among other villages, nine villages in the karyat Ichalkaranji as they belong to Chhatrapati Sambhaji of Kolhapur by the treaty of Warana.

In a letter dated 11 Jan. 1741, written by Chhatrapati Shahu of Satara to Chhatrapati Sambhaji of Kolhapur, Shahu refers to nine villages in Karayat Ichalkaranji they are Kasaba, Dattawad, Kodoli, Lat, Hupri, Rendal, Chandur, Salkud and Shiradwad. The Mujahala: bab of these nine villages was given to Chhatrapati Sambhaji as per the Warana treaty.¹⁸

“Ichalkaranji, being in the vicinity of Kolhapur, was utilized by Poona Government as a check to the power of Kolhapur. Chhatrapati of Satara gave Venkatrao a village in Inam by name of Shirdhon in 1722, upon the request of Peshwa. In addition to this, villages like Manerajuri, Nandani, Arag and Mhapan were also given as Inams to Venkatrao. In 1724, Uttur was also gifted to him as Inam. On Wednesday, the 18th March, 1724, Venkatrao was presented with a separate Saranjamjabata named as ‘Mamalakat Madar’ by the Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaja of Satara”.¹⁹

According to Saranjamjabata of 1703, Venkatrao became the servant of Kapshikar Senapati and his Chief was Karveerkar Maharaja. But according to the Saranjamjabata of 1724, Venkatrao cut his relations with Kapshikar and Karveerkar Maharaja, as he had become the Saranjamdar of Shahu Maharaja of Satara.

“In 1743, Venkatrao suffered from tuberculosis. As a result, he became weak and debilitated. He changed his residence to different villages like Nandani, Takli and Uttur. But at last, Venkatrao died in 1745 at Sadalage”.²⁰ After the death of Venkatrao Narayan, his son, Narayan Venkatesh alias Nayaran Tatya became the Chief of Ichalkaranji Jahagir.

**Narayanrao Venkatesh Alias Narayanrao Tatya
(1724to1770)**

Narayanrao Venkatesh, popularly known as Tatyasaheb Ghorpade, was born in the year 1723 - 24. He was neither a good general nor an efficient administrator. Narayan Tatya fell sick in the beginning of the year 1770. Day-by-day, his health deteriorated and he died on 10th November 1770.

“Few men had been given greater opportunities to distinguish themselves and to pro~~ve~~ the prestige of their family - inheritance than Narayanrao that unfortunate Prince who comes down to history as an inglorious failure”.²¹

In the period of Narayan Tatya, his mother Anubai played an important role in the administration of Ichalkaranji Jahagir.

Anubai Ghorpade -(1713to1783)

Anubai Ghorpade was the wife of Venkatrao Narayan-I, the mother of Narayanrao Venkatesh. In the regime of Narayan Tatya, his mother Anubai, was the lady who played a vital role. For more than the efforts of Narayanrao, the services of Anubai brought glory and prosperity to Ichalkaranji. Anubai was a woman of gifted with wit and sagacity. She had different means and sources at her disposal. When Narayan Tatya was lingering on his deathbed, his mother Anubai was busily engaged at Poona with the Peshwa in settling an important problem of Ichalkaranji Jahagir.

Mr.V.V.Khare quotes in his book "Ichalkaranji Sansthanacha Itihas", about Anubai Ghorpade as under:

"There are only two prominent figures in the Ichalkaranji Jahagir to reckon with. They are Naro Mahadeo and Anubai Ghorpade".²²

English author H.G.Franks writes about Anubai in his book. "The Story of Ichalkaranji" that, "Anubai lived for Ichalkaranji. She ruled Ichalkaranji and she served Ichalkaranji. She tried for extension more of the city at the time when it was at the height of its importance".²³

Anubai, had taken active part in the State administration. She breathed her last at Tulapur in 1783.

Venkatrao Naryan -II(1771to1794)

At the time Anubai's death, Venkartao-II was a fairly well experienced young man. He was brave, active and intelligent. But in a short time , the financial position of the Jahagir was completely disorganized and with the death of his mother, Laxmibai, in 1788, the last possible check on his wild career was removed, so that Venkatrao gave full scope to his whims and vices.

He was later addicted to drinking alcohol. He could not keep up with his wife, even for a shortest possible time. A total pandemonium, prevailed.

V.V.Khare refers that "People started commenting that he should either give up is drinking or allow the Government to arrest him. If he did not give up drinking, his principality should be taken over by the Government". ²⁴

Ramabai

Ramabai, the wife of Venkatrao Narayan-II , was a clever judge of the situation. She could visualize the calamity in store for her husband and his principality. She was clever enough to understand well in advance that the Government would put her husband behind the bars and his principality would be taken over. Considering all these factors, she sent her envoy Kurundwadkar to Peshwa, requesting him to help her.

In this case, Ramabai proposed that "the Government should not put her husband in prison. If the Jahagir was to be confiscated, her opinion must be taken into consideration. The administrator to be appointed must have her consent. She further suggested that she would manage the expenses of the principality and pay installments of the loans in collaboration with the administrator. She suggested that the Government could supervise her Jahagir dealings." ²⁵

But the Jahagir was confiscated and Mahadji Vithal was appointed to work under Raghunathrao Kurundwadkar to manage the affairs and pay the installments of the loans concerned.

In this situation, it was decided that Venkatrao should be confined to home for a year on a bank of the river Krishna. If during this period, he would improve

his behaviour, he would be forgiven by the Government.

According to the above suggestion, Venkatrao was sent to Takli. At Takli, Venkatrao became totally upset due to the Government's dissatisfaction with him. He was fade up with his wife's vigilance over him. He became an introvert. His notoriety pinched him a lot. He started thinking of putting an end to his life as he had become a burden upon others.

At last, Venkatrao committed suicide by drinking the liquid extraction of 'Rui', on Tuesday, the 23 December, 1794. ²⁶

Narayanrao Babasaheb Alias

Narayanrao Venkatesh II (1795 to 1827)

After the death of Venkatrao Narayan - II , his wife Ramabai adopted Narayanrao Babasaheb but the Ichalkaranji Jahagir had not yet became free from the Government control and the loans concerned. As long as they were unable to pay the loans, the Jahagir was destined to remain under the control of Mahadji Vithal. Bahasaheb took loans from different sources and paid the required money to Nana Phadanvis and thus, he became the master of his own Jahagir. Chhatrapati Shahu Mah^{ra}ja of Satara and Peshwa Government

promised Babasaheb that all the Inams presented to him by Satarkar Maharaja would be continued.

Shrimant Narayanrao Babasaheb's regime had to face many upheavals. He had to face tremendous odds. The position of Ichalkaranji as a counterpoise to Kolhapur was essentially based on the constant support of the Peshwa Government. As the power of the Peshwa Government declined, Kolhapur took the opportunity of attacking Ichalkaranji. Narayanrao Babasaheb, therefore, paid large amount of 'Nazarana' to Kolhapur.

Narayanrao Babasaheb died on 3rd January 1827 at the age of fifty. His wife was Gangabai. He had two sons - Venkatrao and Keshavrao - and five daughters.

Narayanrao Babasaheb does not appear to have been an outstanding ruler or statesman. But he lived in a very different and critical period and probably his belief that discretion was the better part of valour was of greater service to his Jahagir than would have been the policy of a more ambitious ruler.

Narayanrao Babasaheb certainly upheld the reputation of the founders of the Jahagir, for to him must be given the credit, if not of building up a state, atleast of preserving it more or less in tact against tremendous odds.²⁷

**(C) ICHALKARANJIKAR GHORPADE IN POST-PESHTA
PERIOD - BEGINNING OF BRITISH CONTROL :**

Venkatrao Narayan-III (1827to1838)

After the demise of Narayanrao Babasaheb in 1827, his elder son Venkatrao, became his heir-apparent to the Ichalkaranji throne. In the meantime, Peshwa's regime had to suffer a deathblow and it had come to an end. By then, the British Government had tightened its clutches over a very large territory. It had established itself firmly. British administrators made their foundation deeply rooted.

In the meantime, Buva Maharaja of Karveer wrote a letter to the British Government requesting that if at all the Ichalkaranji Jahagir was to be merged, it should be merged in the Kolhapur state rather than in the British Empire.

H.G.Franks writes, "Immediately following the death of Narayanrao Babasaheb, the Kolhapur Raja made efforts to annex the Ichalkaranji Jahagir, but in view of the strong evidence produced by the Jahagir from the Peshwa Daftar, the British Government refused to accept this unjustifiable claim of Kolhapur and informed the Darbar that it had no right to annex the Jahagir".²⁸

Venkatrao Narayan Raosaheb died on 16 February 1738. He had married twice in his lifetime. His first wife was Ramabai, the daughter of Chintamanrao Appasaheb Sanglikar. She also died young. After her death, Venkatrao got married with Annapurnabai, the daughter of Ramdurgkar Bhave. Both the women did not have any issue. Therefore, Venkatrao was succeeded by his younger brother Keshavrao Tatyasaheb.

Keshavrao Tatyasaheb (1838to1852)

The Darbar of Kolhapur again presented its case to the British Government. From both the sides, not stone was left unturned to get the Government's verdict in its favour.

Finally, in the year 1847, the British Govenment gave the verdict to the effect that "Ichalkaranji principality will work under Karveerkar's power".²⁹

KeshavaroTatyasahebwas completely disillusioned to see the unexpected verdict against him. He thought that he was destined to loose the power which had been protected by his predecessors. At the end, Tatyasaheb agreed to work under Kolhapurkar on the condition that if in future, he had to adopt a son, he must be permitted to do so.

Both Venkatrao and Keshavrao Tatyasaheb were noble gentlemen, free from any vices of power or wealth. They did not have the opportunity to distinguish themselves, either in the battle field or in the council chamber, for both of them ruled at a time when the British Government was paramount in Maharashtra and when the utmost that any ruler could do was to place his evidence before the Political Agent and wait for the final decision which had to be accepted .

Venkatrao Keshav(1853to1854)

On the death of Kesharao Tatyasaheb in 1852, his wife Yashodabai adopted, with the consent of her mother-in-law, a young boy from the Huparikar Joshi family. The adoption was recognized by the British Government, but as the young boy Venkatrao was a minor, the Government appointed an administrator. Venkatrao married the next year, but unfortunately, he died immediately afterwards in 1853, a calamity which produced a real crisis in the history of Ichalkaranji.

With the early death of Venkatrao, Yshodabai sought the permission for another adoption. But the company Government refused to permit Ichalkaranjkar

Shrimant Govindrao Abasaheb Ghorpade

श्रीमंतांचे वडील



के. श्रीमंत गोविंदराव आबासाहेब घोरपडे

Father of Narayanrao Babasaheb Ghorpade.

to do so, as it was against the company Government's policy. After the Mutiny of 1857, the Government changed its policy and accordingly, Shrimant Govindrao Keshav, the boy of Vishwanath Huparikar, was adopted . Thus, he became the heir to Ichalkaranji gadi in the year 1874.

**Govindrao Keshav Alias Govindrao Abasaheb
(1874to1876)**

Govindrao Abasaheb was very clever, wise and a sane ruler. He rose to the occasion and handled the crisis with cool head. He presented a blueprint for many new reforms in his Jahagir. But unfortunately, he cut short his life and died on 15 February, 1876. ³⁰

Govindrao Abasaheb had no children and, therefore, the Government was once again requested to permit the wife of Govindrao Abasaheb to adopt a son. Gopalrao, the youngest son of Laxmanrao Joshi, residing at Karkamb in Solapur district, was selected for adoption.³¹ The boy was named Narayanrao Babasaheb and the adoption ceremony was celebrated on 10th August, 1876. Babasaheb's thread ceremony (Munj) took place on 27 April, 1879. ³²

On 18 June, 1892, Shrimant Babasaheb accessed to the Ichalkaranji gadi. He continued to be in the office

till 1943, till his death. He ruled Ichalkaraji principality ably for more than fifty years.

(III) ANALYSIS OF SOURCE MATERIAL

The sources used in the present study "History of Ichalkaranji Jahagir" can be divided into two categories, namely published sources and unpublished sources.

A) Unpublished Sources :

This thesis is an attempt to understand and evaluate the history of Ichalkaranji Jahagir. The thesis is mainly based on unpublished documents from National Archives, New Delhi, Bombay Archives, Bombay and Kolhapur Archives, Kolhapur.

National Archives, New Delhi

The unpublished documents maintained in the National Archives, New Delhi, which has been referred and used in preparing the thesis. The documents collected among the following records -

1. Bombay Presidency Political Movement
2. Bombay Presidency Deccan States

3. Micro film - Acc. No. 253
4. Micro film - Acc. No. 254
5. Micro film - Acc. No. 266

Bombay Archives , Bombay

The following unpublished sources from the Bombay Archives have been used to write the thesis.

1. Kolhapur Residency file - 1854
2. Old Newspapers - Kesari, Maratha etc.
3. Kolhapur Residency File - Political Department
- 1854

Kolhapur Archives, Kolhapur

As for as the Ichalkaranji Jahagir is concerned, 155 (One hundred and fifty five) Administrative files are available in the Kolhapur Archives. Among those, following files were referred and collected unpublish source material. The files are as under-

Sr.No.	Subject	RumalNo.	File No.
1.	Freedom Movement – 1942	2	9
2.	National Movement – 1941	4	24
3.	Ichalkaranji Administration	4	27

4.	National Movement – 1941	8	53
5.	National Movement – 1941	8	54
6.	Administration File	8	55
7.	Ichalkaranji Common File	9	59
8.	Correspondence File – 1941	11	74
9.	Ichalkaranji Administration	12	78
10.	Freedom movement – 1939	14	90
11.	Administration File- 1938	15	98
12.	Freedom movement - 1939 to 42	22	133
13.	Correspondence File – 1939	22	134
14.	Correspondence File-1920 to 1926	24	155

Ichalkaranji Municipal Archives

- 1) Ichalkaranji Municipal Records
- 2) General Proceeding Books
- 3) Ichalkaranji Municipal Resolutions

Thus the thesis is an attempt to write History of Ichalkaranji Jahagir with unpublished sources collected from above mentioned Archives.



MR. J. L. GOHEEN
Administrator of Ichalkaranji

B) Published Sources -

The book named "Ichalkaranji Sansthanacha Itihas" written by V.V. Khare is the published source which was helpful in preparing this Thesis. This book was written in 1913.

Another book named "The Story of Ichalkaranji" is also a useful source for the study of Ichalkaranji Jahagir. This book was written by H.G.Franks in 1930.

The first biography of Narayanrao Babasaheb Ghorpade was written by N.D. Tamhankar who was his servant, in the year 1951.

Mr.J.L.Goheen was the administrator of Ichalkaranji Jahagir upto 1934. He has written a book named "Glimpses of Ichalkaranji" published during the life time of Babasaheb in 1934.

"The Maharashtra State Gazetteers, Kolhapur Dstrict, 1960" by the Government of Maharashtra and "The Imperial Gazetteer of India", Vol. V, II Edition, 1885, edited by W.W.Hunter, are mostly used for geographical and historical backgrounds of Ichalkaranji Jahagir.

"Karveer Riyasat" edited by S. M. Garge and "Tarabai Kalin Kagadpatre, Vol. I & II" edited by Dr.

Appasaheb Pawar are the useful source material for the work.

For studying the freedom movement of Ichalkaranji Jahagir Praja Sangh Movement in Ichalkaranji Jahagir, books are referred like "Struggle for Freedom" and "Sepoy Mutiny and The Revolt of 1857" by R.C.Majumdar, "Modern India (1885-1947)" by Sumit Sarkar, "History of The Indian National Movement" by Prakash Chandra etc.

The book named "Sansthanatil Lokshahicha Ladha" (Marathi), published by V.A. Patwardhan in 1940 and "Dakshin Maharashtraatil Sansthanachya Vilinikaranachya Katha" (Marathi) also published by V.A.Patwardhan are also the rare books.

"Jeevan Pravah" (Marathi), the autobiography of Madhavrao Bagal, was referred for studying the Praja Sangh's movement in Ichalkaranji Jahagir. This book is found in the rare books section of Shivaji University, Labrary.

"Maha Rashtra", a magazine published in 1942, a golden jubilee year of Babasaheb Ghorepade, contains articles written by different persons who knew the work of Babasaheb closely.

"A Brief History of the State of Ichalkaranji" by an anonymous author and printed at the Aryabhushan Press, Poona in 1913, and "Smaller Native States : A

Federal System” written by Babasaheb Ghorapade, the chief of Ichalkaranji, printed at Aryabhushan Press, Poona, in 1914, are the published but rare sources.

(IV) CHAPTER SCHEME OF THE THESIS

There were eighteen princely States in Maharashtra before Independence. Kolhapur was an important state among these. There were nine feudatory (Jahagirs) under the kolhapur State. Ichalkaranji was one of them. But the Jahagirdar of Ichalkaranji did not think so, as the Jahagir was gifted by the Peshwa. Therefore, History of Ichalkaranji Jahagir deals with the conflict between Ichalkaranji Jahagir and Kolhapur State.

The first chapter is by way of introduction to the subject. In this chapter general geographical and historical information about the Jahagir has been included. Moreover the analysis of source material used and the chapter-scheme of the thesis is given.

The second chapter deals with economic, administrative and social reforms in Ichalkaranji Jahagir. As far as these reforms were concerned the role of Narayanrao Babasaheb Ghorpade was very important. His definite planning and strategy towards

economic, administrative and social reforms has been studied in this chapter.

The municipal administration in the Ichalkaranji Jahagir, is covered in the third chapter. Babasaheb Ghorpade laid the foundation of Ichalkaranji Municipality at the beginning of his tenure to provide civic amenities to the people. He gave financial assistance to Ichalkaranji Municipality for supplying tap-water to his subjects.

“Educational Development” in the Jahagir has been dealt with in fourth chapter. Before Babasaheb, there was no scope for education. After becoming Jahagirdar, babasaheb declared a new educational policy. He started primary schools in his Jahagir. Babasaheb was deeply interested in the secondary education from the beginning of his tenure. Shri. Venkatrao High School was started at Ajara in 1932. He helped the student from his Jahagir to get higher education. He gave large sums of money as donations to the colleges.

The Fifth chapter includes “The Textile Industry and Labour Movement in Ichalkaranji”. The development and growth of Textile industry and problems of workers working in the textile industry are studied in this chapter.

The sixth Chapter deals with the Ichalkaranji Jahagir Praja Sangh movement in Ichalkaranji Jahagir. Ichalkaranji Jahagir Praja Sangh was the people's organization for their rights. Though the organization was founded in 1939, the groundwork was made from 1930. D.T. Chivate, Shivgonda Patil, Shankar Kanthe, Telshige etc. were the leaders of the organization. Remission in land revenue, responsible government, etc., were the main demands of the organization. The first phase of the freedom movement studied in this chapter. The period covered is the thirties of the twentieth century.

In the forties of the twentieth century, the freedom movement in India became progressive. The seventh chapter covers this period as a second phase of freedom movement in Ichalkaranji Jahagir, with the help of original sources.

The last chapter to be a way of epilogue and conclusions.

NOTES

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2. Kolhapur Archives, (hereafter K.A.), Government of Maharashtra : "Maharashtra State Gazetteer- Kolhapur - District", (1960), P.840.
3. *Ibid*, p.840.
4. Goheen, J.L.(1934): "Glimpses of Ichalkaranji", p.5
5. *Ibid.*, pp.5,6
6. *Ibid.*, p.39.
7. Bombay Archives, Kolhapur Residency Files- Political Department, 1854, p.1.
8. *Ibid.*, p.3.
See also : Hunter, W.W., *op.cit.*, pp. 509-510.
9. *Ibid.*, p.3.,
10. Author Anonymous(1913): "A Brief History of the State of Ichalkaranji", Pune Aryabhushan Press, p.2.
11. Kolhapur Archives, Ichalkaranji File no.59, p. 376.
12. K.A., Parasnis Daftar, Ichalkaranji File no. 155, p.9
; See also: Wartikar, S.H.: "Kapashikar Gharanuachi Kagadpatre", pp.117-118.
13. Goheen, J.L., *op. cit.*, pp. 38-39.
14. Pawar A.G., Tarabai Kalin Kagadpatre Vol.I, P.366
15. Pawar A. G., *op. cit* Vol II, No. 88, P. 105
16. Pawar A. G., *op. cit* Vol II, No. 90, P. 109

17. Pawar A. G., op. cit Vol II, No. 152, P. 194
18. Pawar A. G., op. cit Vol II, No. 176, P. 227
19. Khare V.V., "Ichalkaranji Sansthanacha Itihas", 1913
pp.33-34.
20. Ibid., p.34.
21. Franks, H.G. : "The story of Ichalkaranji", 1930,
p.63.
22. Khare, V.V. op. cit., p.131.
23. Franks, H.G., op. cit., p.80.
24. Khare, V.V., op. cit., p. 133.
25. Ibid., pp. 133-134.
26. Khare, V.V., "Aitihāsik Lekha Sangraha-IX", p.
3596.
27. Franks, H.G., op. cit., p. 129.
28. Ibid., p. 108.
29. Khare V.V., op. cit., p.174.
30. Ibid., p.182.
31. Franks, H.G., op. cit., p.129.
32. Ibid., p.183.

CHAPTER -II

ECONOMIC, ADMINISTRATIVE AND SOCIAL REFORMS IN ICHALKARANJI JAHGIR : A Role of Babasaheb Ghorpade , Jahagirdar of Ichalkaranji.

CHAPTER -II

ECONOMIC, ADMINISTRATIVE AND SOCIAL REFORMS IN ICHALKARANJI JAHAGIR : **A Role of Babasaheb Ghorpade, Jahagirdar of Ichalkaranji.**

The administration of the Ichalkaranji Jahagir was in the hands of Narayanrao Govindrao, the jahagirdar, from 1892, the year of his accession, to 1943, the year of his demise. The character and policy of the ruler, in those days, were responsible for the quality of the administration. Development or degeneration, in the state could be attributed to the ruler. It is therefore, proposed in this chapter to analyse the role of the jahagirdar, reflected through his character and policy, in the beginning and development of socio-economic reforms in the jahagir.

Shrimant Babasaheb has written recollections of his childhood days, which provide a clue to the fact that, his was a very opulent family. The atmosphere in his house, was very strict. Children were not allowed to have their own ways. His father was a tyrant. Everybody had to abide by the father. Vishnuanna, his elder brother and Bayatai, his sister were his playfellows. He had deep attachment and love for his brother and sister.

“Even after Babasaheb’s accession to the Ichalkaranji gadi, he did pay attention to his brother Annasaheb and his sons and daughters, looking after their requirements. His sister Bayatai got married to his friend Janubhau Fadnis at Ichalkaranji. It was matter of sheer coincidence that Babasaheb could get his sister for all the time in his vicinity.” ¹

The chapter has been devided into four parts -
(I) Early life, Adoption, Education and Accession.
(II)Economic Reforms (III)Administrative and Social Reforms and (IV)Estimate.

(I) Early Life, Adoption, Education and Accession :

A. Early Life And Adoption -

Govindrao Abasaheb died suddenly in February 1876. As he had no heir apparent, it was necessary, in the interest of the jahagir that, a heir should be adopted. Government permitted an adoption. Then the search was undertaken to find an appropriate boy from the Konkanastha Brahmin subcaste. The political agent collected eight boys for the preliminary selection. Those boys included six years old Gopal, the son of Laxmanrao Joshi, Karkamb kar. Gopal proved to be

SRIMANT NARAYANARAO BABASAHEB GHORPADE



RULER OF ICHALKARANJI

Birth : 1870 Accession : 1892 Death : 1943

superior to all other boys in almost all aspects. The political agent gave his opinion in favour of Gopal's adoption.

"The late Abasaheb's wife Padmavatibai, adopted Gopal on 10 August, 1876, and named him as Narayanrao Babasaheb. For the approval of this adoption she presented a nazarana of rupees 1,70,000 to the Chhtrapati of Kolhapur. Babasaheb's 'Munj' took place, on 27 April, 1879." ² And in June, 1892, Shrimant Babasahen rose to the Ichalkaranji gadi. During the interval of about sixteen years, pendemonium, instability and turmoil, prevailed in Ichalkaranji Jahagir.

There are two different opinions about his birth date. "The magazine "MahaRashtra", published in the year, 1942, states, "Babasaheb was born in the year 1870 at Karkamb in Sholapur district." ³

On the other hand, the administrative file of Ichalkaranji maintained in Kolhapur Archives contains the following information.

"Shrimant Narayanrao Govind Alias Babasaheb Ghorpade, Pant Sachiv, a Kōkanasth Brahmin, is the Jahagirdar of Ichalkaranji, was born in 1871 and succeeded to gadi by adoption in 1876." ⁴ The contemporary file might be nearer to the birth than the Maha Rashtra.

B. Education -

After his adoption, Babasaheb started enjoying the stately life of a prince. His primary and secondary education was carried on by special tutors at home. Mr. Marathe taught him Marathi. He had teachers like Modak, Gokhale, Rashingkar to teach him English, Later Gangadhar Pant Gadre also taught him English. Babasaheb's classmates in those days, were Babasaheb Patwardhan Mirajkar, Shrimant Abasaheb Pratinidhi Vishalgadkar, Shrimant Khardekar Sarlashakar, and Shrimant Akkalkotkar. All these princes were being taught at Kolhapur under the vigilance of the political agent at Kolhapur State. The retired Karbhari of Ichalkaranji State, Raosaheb Rashingkar, was also a teacher of Babasaheb for sometime. In his opinion, though Babasaheb was clever, he had no talent to speak of. He used to study on the strength of his continuous efforts. He never dodged his study. He learnt every thing by heart, but he disliked writing. This was why, his hand writing could never improve. So far as the handwriting was concerned, Shrimant Abasaheb Vishalgadkar was superior to all other boys. These two were poles apart. Abasaheb was neat and tidy, whereas Babasaheb was careless and untidy since his childhood days. Shrimant Abasaheb took pains to keep his books

and note-books in a very clear and tidy manner even in his old age. ⁵

“His secondary school education was done under the tutorship of Candi at Kolhapur. He passed his Matriculation examination in 1888, and was awarded “Alfred Scholarship” from Rajaram College, Kolhapur. Babasaheb was generous enough to allow the scholarship to be given to the poor student, who stood next to him.” ⁶

He was in the Rajaram College for only one year. Afterwards, he went to Elphinstone College, Bombay. He had offered English, History and Economics as his subjects for his B.A. Degree. Prof. Wordsworth taught him History. Prof. Oxenham also helped him a lot. At the same time, he used to remain present for some lectures on law. In those days Prof. Sethana took more care of the royal family students. Babasaheb used to go to the High Court to listen to some civil and criminal cases or appeals. He always stood first in his class. He had mastery over English, both spoken and written.

He was made to go on small tours in the Jahagir and was well informed about the Jahagir. Horse riding was his favourite hobby. “Shrimant Bbasaheb was a voracious reader from his childhood. He had deep interest in Vedant, Philosophy and History. He had

attended an international exhibition on industry in 1884, at Calcutta.” ⁷

Babasaheb could learn many things from clerks and attendants (Hujare). He learnt morality from them. At Kolhapur he used to be surrounded by the sons of Maratha Saradars, who were his classmates and playmates. Babasaheb took his education not for the sake of degree, but as a means for getting knowledge. He had this practical approach towards education. ⁸

“After his graduation, he took interest in the study of law, because he knew that it would be of great help to him in the administration. He, not only attended the lectures on law and read the books on law, but also was in the habit of hearing some cases in the Bombay High Court, regularly. He became well-versed in law and judicial procedure. He learnt everything for practical purposes.” His stay at Bombay, helped him to come in contact with great personalities like advocate Mandalik, and Justice Telang. Justice Ranade’s advice and his thoughts exerted great impact on Babasaheb’s mind. He would approach these persons as a disciple and have debate on various subjects and would get his difficulties solved. He had great reverence for Justice Ranade, who guided him with affection. It was Justice Ranade, who taught him that “the King should be happy in the service of the humanity rather than his seeking

happiness in his own luxury and fancies, the King is the trusty of the subject, and that he should lead the people and do good to them.”⁹

Shrimant Babasaheb believed in the adage that, “travel and journey makes man rich in his knowledge.” He loved to travel. He had travelled all over the north India. He wrote his diary regularly with meticulous details. While travelling, he used to have aesthetic pursuits. When he visited tourist spots, he used to collect information about the fertility of the land, the trade and commerce, the economy and the trends in the people. When he happened to visit a particular state, he would get acquainted with political agent, and seek information about the administration in particular.

“After his return from England and Europe he wrote a book, called, “Impressions of British Life and Character.” This book was praised by many prominent persons on account of its merit.”¹⁰

Babasaheb got married at the age of sixteen, while he was taking his education. “In view of the prevalent custom his comparatively late marriage was a surprise.”¹¹

The second surprising thing about his marriage is that, he got married to a girl, hailing from a comparatively poor family of an advocate from Ahmednagar.

N.D.Tamhankar writes in his book, "Shrimant Narayanrao Babasaheb Ghorpade, Ichalkaranji, "Babasaheb got married to Durgabai, the daughter of an advocate, Mohaniraj Paranjape from Nagar. The marriage took place on 28 March, 1886."¹²

Tamhankar refers to Babasaheb's wife as Sunderabai in his book. But her original name was Gangabai, yet she was famous as "Maisaheb" among the people. Maisaheb was educated and well-behaved. She had a very good conduct. It was due to Maisaheb that the women in the Ichalkaranji principality were educated, to some extent.

"Maisaheb gave birth to a son in December 1892, but he died very soon. She did not have any issue afterwards."¹³

C. Accession To Ichalkaranji Gadi -

After completion of his education, and in view of his maturity Babasaheb's accession to Ichalkaranji gadi on 18 June 1892 was completed with the approval of the Government. Babasaheb took his charge as the ruler of Ichalkaranji principality in the year 1892, and he continued to be in the office till 1943, when he breathed his last.

He took initiative in almost all aspects of administration and instituted some new ways in the Ichalkaranji principality.

After finishing his education, Babasaheb was to get accession to the Ichalkaranji Gadi. But he had not decided whether he should accept it or not. To him accession to the throne meant servility to the superiors. Superiors, according to him, were always devoid of sympathy. And working under the superior would never allow his dreams to be fulfilled. He would have to eat humble pie every now and then. Such , different doubts haunted his mind. He was not ready to accept the throne, because he felt that it was better for him to keep aloof from all such matters. ¹⁴

“Babasaheb expressed all his thought to his then adviser Justice Ranade. Justice Ranade did not agree with, what Babasaheb said. On the other hand he told Babasaheb that though, the scope of his authority was limited, there was a lot which could be done with the principality in hand, India then was under the British rule, the local Governments were busy making the British happy. According to Ranade some power is better than no power at all. He told Babasaheb to be satisfied with what he had. He further, told him that though his Jahagir was small and though he had little jurisdiction in Civil and Criminal cases, he had been

compensated with free hand in land revenue. In addition to that he was at liberty so far as the departments of education health, trade and commerce were concerned. Ranade told him that, he would be able to render service and would do good to nearly seventy-five thousand people. In spite all this, he agreed that, to the ambitious man like Babasaheb, servility would mean confinement to a little area. Finally, Ranade advised him to accept this challenge and prove his merits.” ¹⁵

(II) Economic Reforms :

Since his installation on the gadi, Shrimant Babasaheb has introduced many reforms in his Jahagir.

He found out all the loopholes in his Jahagir and provided a very efficient administration. He tried to understand people's difficulties and tried his best to get the difficulties solved.

At the time of his accession to the gadi, the Jahagir had become bankrupt. He brought the principality of Ichalkaranji out of bankruptcy. He tried hard to make his subjects satisfied with his reforms. He introduced uniform weights and measures all over the Jahagir. He paid heed to the difficulties of the railway passengers. He continued the use of Modi script for

Marathi language in official documents. He undertook land reforms, co-operative movement and afforestation in his Jahagir.

Compared to source of the income of his small Jahagir, he introduced many reforms in the field of water-supply, agricultural development, textile industry, public works department, health department, police department, municipality. The expenditure incurred on public wells, Sanatoriums, and Temples etc. by him is really considerable.

At the time of his installation on the Ichalkaranji gadi, Shrimant Babasaheb had to face acute financial difficulties. In the first place Ichalkaranji had taken the loan of forty five thousand rupees; and secondly in the drought of 1897, again it had to take the loan of thirty thousand rupees. In short, the complete economy of the Jahagir was thrown out of gears. ¹⁶

Babasaheb was duty-bound to improve the economy. He imposed some strict limitations on his expenditure and he meticulously followed it. He introduced new ways of accounts. He used to have budgetary provisions. He would never go beyond budget provisions. "Earlier rulers always gave priority to their own extravagance and whims and if some money remained, it would be spent on public reforms. But Babasaheb's policy was quite the opposite." ¹⁷

Being a very efficient ruler he was aware of his responsibilities. He put some limits on his own expenditure. He wanted to pay some installments of the loan on his Jahagir. He had the definite planning and strategy in his administration. He had deep loyalty to his subjects. He adhered strictly to his budget provisions. He undertook time-bound programme for the welfare of his Jahagir.

He economized the expenditure on administrative methods and repaid the loans. After some days he was able to save some money. Thus, he brought the principality out of financial chaos and prepared sound foundations for it. He did not impose excessive taxes on his people. People did not have to pay anything except land-revenue as direct tax.¹⁸

Inspite of a very small source of income, Bababaheb could render many significant reforms to his subject. Babasaheb had a private source of income of about fifty thousand rupees, from personal (Sheri desh mukhi) estate. Sometimes, he would spend his personal income to meet the additional demands of the Jahagir coffers, to make both the ends meet. He never violated the limit of rupees three thousand for his personal expenditure, which was given to him as 'Tanakha'.

Unlike other States, he never took help of indecent ways of grabbing money from the Jahagir coffers for his private means. He never allowed his personal expenditures of his family to be imposed on the Jahagir coffers.

A. Agricultural Reforms -

From the begging of his career, Babasaheb always felt that it was his duty to make his people's economic condition sound. Majority of the people in Ichalkaranji Jahagir depended upon agriculture. And hence, he took special efforts for land reforms. He experimented with modern techniques in his own land as pilot projects and helped the peasants to understand its importance. He had formed close friendship with Dr. Burns and Dr. Mann, the principals of the Agriculture College, Poona. He had appointed some agriculture officers in his Jahagir. Some people were trained in agricultural Schools. He always expected them to make new experiments. The main crops in Ichalkaranji Jahagir, were Sugarcane, Cotton, Tobacco, Chilly, Turmeric and Jawar. In the case of Sugarcane plantations, he introduced scientific ways. He trained Sugarcane growers to produce, a nice and plentiful variety of new Gur(Jaggery). As a result Ichalkaranji's

jaggery had lot of demand in Sangli and Kolhapur markets.¹⁹

He provided guidance for banana, and betel-leaf plantations even in the distant villages like Arag and Manerajuri. He took efforts to increase the cotton yield in his principality.²⁰

In Ajara Taluka Paddy and Nagali were the main crops. Some people depended upon the forest for their livelihood. He took special efforts to increase teak-wood and Sandalwood.

"The income from the forest, which was rupees 8,228 in 1892, was almost doubled in 1941-42. It became rupees 15,987."²¹

He made deliberate attempts to increase mango and lemon production. Thus, he showed deep interest in horticulture. At Awandi, he tried to grow 'Hapus' and 'Payari' mango varieties, in his own backyard.²²

Without good animals agriculture in those days was virtually impossible. Babasaheb made deliberate attempts to produce good breed and variety of animals.

He started celebrating 'Bendur'. He had arranged a very big exhibition of animals on the day of 'Bendur'. The race of oxes pulling the wooden logs had become very famous in Ichalkaranji Jahagir. Good and meritorious bulls were awarded prizes and silver

ornaments. Babasaheb brought hybrid cows and calves from Poona agricultural farm, for Ichalkaranji.²³

He made provisions to explain the importance of organic fertilizers in agriculture. He had made certain demonstration plots.

“In order to supplement the peasant’s income he thought of introducing poultry farms. He made an attempt to bring ‘white leghorn’ to his Jahagir. Babasaheb provided the peasants with government loans, for agricultural purpose. Babasaheb keenly observed the co-operative institutions as well as agricultural farms, when he travelled in England and Europe. He intended to import some of these techniques in his Jahagir. In 1913, he gave a lecture on “the agriculture and co-operative movement in Europe”. His journey to Europe, ultimately resulted in land reforms in Ichalkaranji.”²⁴

B.Textile And Cotton Industry -

Babasaheb was aware of the fact, that agricultural production was just enough for the peasant to live from hand to mouth. So, Babasaheb was on the look out for some supplementary income for the farmer. His initial adivser, Justice Ranade had taught him that, he could

not become rich unless he brought money from outside sources.

He thought of bringing this advice into practice. He brought some weaver families from outside in the Jahagir of Ichalkaranji. Initially, he gave them some financial assistance and open space for their colony. In the beginning rough 'Khadi' was produced by those weavers. It was immediately sold in the markets in the vicinity. They could get good profits also. Many weaver families became permanent inhabitants of Ichalkaranji Jahagir. Ichalkaranji's hand-woven cotton clothes became famous even outside the Jahagir.²⁵

Earlier the 'Kumatha' - variety of cotton was sold outside the Jahagir. But then the export of the cotton was terminated and it was used on the handlooms.

"Shrimant Babasaheb pursued some rich traders to come to Ichalkaranji. He helped them with the required assistance and made them open first spinning and ginning factory in Ichalkaranji some, seventy-eight years ago. Cotton press was also established on the seed capital of one lakh rupees. Thus, textile industry could progress in the Jahagir of Ichalkaranji.²⁶

"It was soon clear that, it became almost impossible to hang upon handlooms for economic progress. So a man like Vithalrao Datar went to Poona,

joined a technical school and learnt the technique of manufacturing locks. He came back to Ichalkaranji and started manufacturing locks in his own workshop. Side by side he started manufacturing rocking chairs. But the sale of these commodities had its own limitations. This made him, think of powerloom and cotton mill. Shrimant Babasaheb agreed to help Vithalrao in this aspect according to the measure of his capacity.”²⁷

Mr. Balwantrao Marthe gave up his job as a clerk and started the workshop of dyeing the hand-woven cloths and hand-spun threads. Marathe's son, after his B.Sc., served in Gajanan Mills at Sangli for sometime and mastered the necessary knowledge about the powerlooms. Afterwards he also started a small unit of powerlooms. Later he became one of the leading industrialist.

“Babasaheb encouraged and assisted Mr. Huparikar to build a Cinema theatre. As days went by, fifteen to twenty members of Babasaheb's clerical staff entered the powerloom industry.”²⁸

Men like, Rupchand Shethaji Gujar, Keshav Premachand Gujar and Virupaksha Anna Sultanpure, came together and instituted a spinning jenny of co-operative basis. Babasaheb helped them to go on with their project. It turned out be a profitable business.²⁹

“After the successful project of spinning jenny, cotton-press became quite a necessary thing. Spinning jenny, and cotton press facilities at Ichalkaranji resulted in the greater demand for raw cotton in Ichalkaranji market. Thus, thousands of cotton bales were sent to Bombay from Ichalkaranji market.”³⁰

Babasaheb's role in the growth and development of textile industry was of vital importance. He was the man who laid the foundation stone of this industry in Ichalkaranji. People started manufacturing coloured sarees on powerlooms. Balwantrao Marathe's textile mill became a prominent factory in Ichalkaranji. Sangale and Bugad families also entered the business of textile. Thus seventy to eighty small units of powerlooms were established during the regime of Babasaheb Ghorpade. Ichalkaranji's sarees became famous all over India. Thus the city became “Manchester of Maharashtra.”³¹

C.Trade And Commerce -

Along with the growth of textile industry the trade and commerce in Ichalkaranji progressed by leaps and bounds. Earlier the peasants had to go to either Sangli or Kolhapur for selling their goods like, turmeric, chilly and tobacco. Babasaheb understood

that, it was the waste of energy and time. And hence he established a market yard on the outskirts of Ichalkaranji. ³²

In the year 1912, Babasaheb started first 'Patapedhi' (society) at Rangoli in Ichalkaranji Jahagir. The 'Patapedhi' (Society), was run by the people in selfless manner. It proved to be a demonstration project for the villages in the vicinity. Then first co-operative society was founded at Ichalkaranji for solving the financial difficulties of the farmers. Shrimant Babasaheb Ghorpade was instrumental for starting all such institutions.

Credit Societies:

Babasaheb Ghorpade wanted that the credit societies must have a sound financial base. The details about co-operative societies are as under :

Table – 2.1**Credit Societies :**

Sr. No.	Name of the Society	Foundation Date	Members	Working Capital
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Rural co-op. Credit Society.	02-04-1913	137	22,155
2.	Ichalkaranji Rural Credit Co-op. Society	13-11-1913	160	27,677
3.	Ajara Rural Co-op. Credit Society.	28-02-1914	179	13,379
4.	Arag Co-op. Credit Society.	27-02-1915	121	5,798
5.	Lat Co-op. Credit Society.	09-03-1916	196	9,429
6.	Uttur Co-op. Society	21-08-1919	171	4,405
7.	Bhadwan Co-op. Credit Society.	08-09-1919	86	2,785
8.	Manerajuri Coopeartive Credit Society.	03-11-1919	167	8,266
9.	Shipur Co-op. Credit Society.	20-11-1919	53	1,269

contd...

Sr. No.	Name of the Society	Foundation Date	Members	Working Capital
10.	Polgaon Co-op. Credit Society	11-12-1919	142	2,656
11.	Urban Co-op. Credit Society.	28-02-1920	461	36,309
12.	Shirdhon Co-op. Credit Society	28-02-1920	175	5,155
13.	Bhairewade Urban Co-op. Credit Society	09-07-1921	86	2,665
14.	Shiradwad Co-op. Credit Society.	13-10-1925	100	7,594
15.	Sohalebhag Co-op. Credit Society.	01-10-1927	163	4,783
16.	Mendholibhag Co-op. Credit Society.	01-10-1927	116	2,633
17.	Servant's Co-op. Credit Society.	06-04-1933	111	1,422

Grain (Dhanya) societies were also started in four villages in 1920 and two more in year 1935 and 1936.

Table - 2.2

Dhanya Societies :

Sr. No.	Name of the Society	Foundation Date	Members	Working Capital
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Mendholi <u>Dhanya</u> Society	09-10-1920	39	81
2.	Ite <u>Dhanya</u> Society	09-10-1920	34	102
3.	Bolakewadi <u>Dhanya</u> Society	27-10-1920	32	97
4.	Khanapur <u>Dhanya</u> Society	29-10-1920	24	104
5.	Sohola <u>Dhanya</u> Society	09-10-1935	58	121
6.	Shirasangi <u>Dhanya</u> Society	03-02-1936	43	60

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**The Ichalkaranji Central Co-Operative Bank
Limited, Ichalkaranji -**

With the growth and development of trade and commerce, the necessity of a bank became almost indispensable. Babasaheb rose to the occasion and took leading part for the establishment of 'The Ichalkaranji Central Co-operative Bank Limited, Ichalkaranji.'³⁴

"Initially, Babasaheb gave some money as a seed capital from the state coffers to the said bank in 1921."³⁵

The bank became useful for the traders and industrialists, for meeting their commercial demands. In the year 1930, the bank was converted from 'The Ichalkaranji Central Co-operative Bank Ltd., Ichalkaranji' to central Co-operative Bank, Babasaheb had given one fifth of the initial capital to the bank.

The bank had to shoulder both the responsibilities of providing the capital to the co-operative societies in the jahagir as well as to undertake the development and growth of co-operative principles. It had to help the trade and commerce with required capital.

"Babasaheb Ghorpade helped the bank as under :-

- (1) He bought the shares of Rs.5,000/-
- (2) He deposited the government money on different accounts in the bank.

(3) He offered government land for the construction of the bank at minimum price.³⁶

The condition of the initial stage of the bank and its progressive development during the period from 1931 to 1941 is shown in the table no. 2.3

Table - 2.3

Statistical information showing the progress of the bank (from 1931 to 1942) :

Year	Members	Share Capital Rs.	Reserves Rs.	Deposits Rs.	Loans Rs.	Working Capital Rs	Profit Rs.	Dividend Paid Rs.
1931	122	10,300	Nil	97,160	66,160	1,08,720	412	7.5%
1932	178	22,825	129	1,77,980	1,40,462	2,05,333	3,349	7.5%
1933	227	24,575	1,753	2,18,303	1,58,813	2,55,367	3,627	7.5%
1934	230	26,450	3,390	2,32,035	1,82,193	3,02,814	4,600	9%
1935	249	27,850	5,170	2,44,507	1,76,976	3,21,636	3,535	7.5%
1936	272	28,675	7,006	2,06,674	1,45,169	2,87,374	4,582	6%
1937	296	29,125	9,711	2,10,595	1,42,130	2,94,534	5,345	6%
1938	316	29,725	14,301	2,29,932	1,38,796	3,22,662	6,961	6%
1939	330	30,200	19,326	2,69,828	1,28,946	3,65,566	5,824	6%
1940	360	31,350	22,862	2,80,722	1,53,854	3,83,370	7,214	6%
1941	382	31,950	28,444	2,57,136	1,25,988	3,64,255	5,037	6%

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In 1931, one hundred twenty-two members were there as shareholders; In 1936, the number of the share holders rose to two hundred seventy two and it became three hundred eighty-two in 1941. In this way the number of the shareholders went on increasing year after year.

The initial share capital of the bank in 1931 was rupees 10,300/- it became rupees 28,675/- in 1936 and in 1941 it rose to rupees 31,950. In this way the share capital always increased.

In 1931, there was no reserve fund. It became rupees 7,006/- in 1936. In 1941 it came to rupees 28,444. Thus the reserve fund increased.

Deposites in 1931, on different accounts, were rupees 97,160/-. It became rupees 2,06,675 in 1936. In 1941, deposits rose to rupees 2,57,136/-. There were fluctuations in the amount of deposits from 1936.

In 1931 the bank had offered loans of rupees 66,160/-. In 1936 the amount of loans rose to rupees 1,45,169/-. And in 1941 it became rupees 1,25,988/-. The amount of loan had decreased from 1936, onwards because share-holders appear to have become self-reliant. Working capital always went on increasing. Initially it was rupees 1,08,720. It rose of rupees 2,87,374/- in 1936/- and it became rupees 3,64,255/- in 1941.

In the first phase of 1931 to 1936, profit was on the increase. In the first year it was rupees 412/- and sixth year it became rupees 5,582/-. After 1936 profit fluctuated from year to year, for example in 1936 it was rupees 4,582/-, it became rupees 5,385/- in 1937, rupees 5,824/- in 1939, rupees 7,214/- in 1940 and rupees 5,037/- in 1941.

For the first three years the bank gave the dividend at the rate of 7.5% to its shareholders every year. In 1934 the dividend percentage rose to 9%. Then onwards it was always on the wane. It became 6% in 1941. On the whole it appears that the bank was always on the path of progress.

Babasaheb helped the traders and industrialists by giving them different facilities. He did not impose any kind of direct tax upon them. He did not impose even excess profit tax. The removal of taxes gave a great boost to trade and industry. ³⁸

Babasaheb Ghorpade believed in consolidating the foundation of the industries in his Jahagir. He convened the meeting of the industrialists and got to know their difficulties. He tried to solve them within his financial limitations. He was the protagonist behind the industrialists; who supported them in almost all aspects. ³⁹

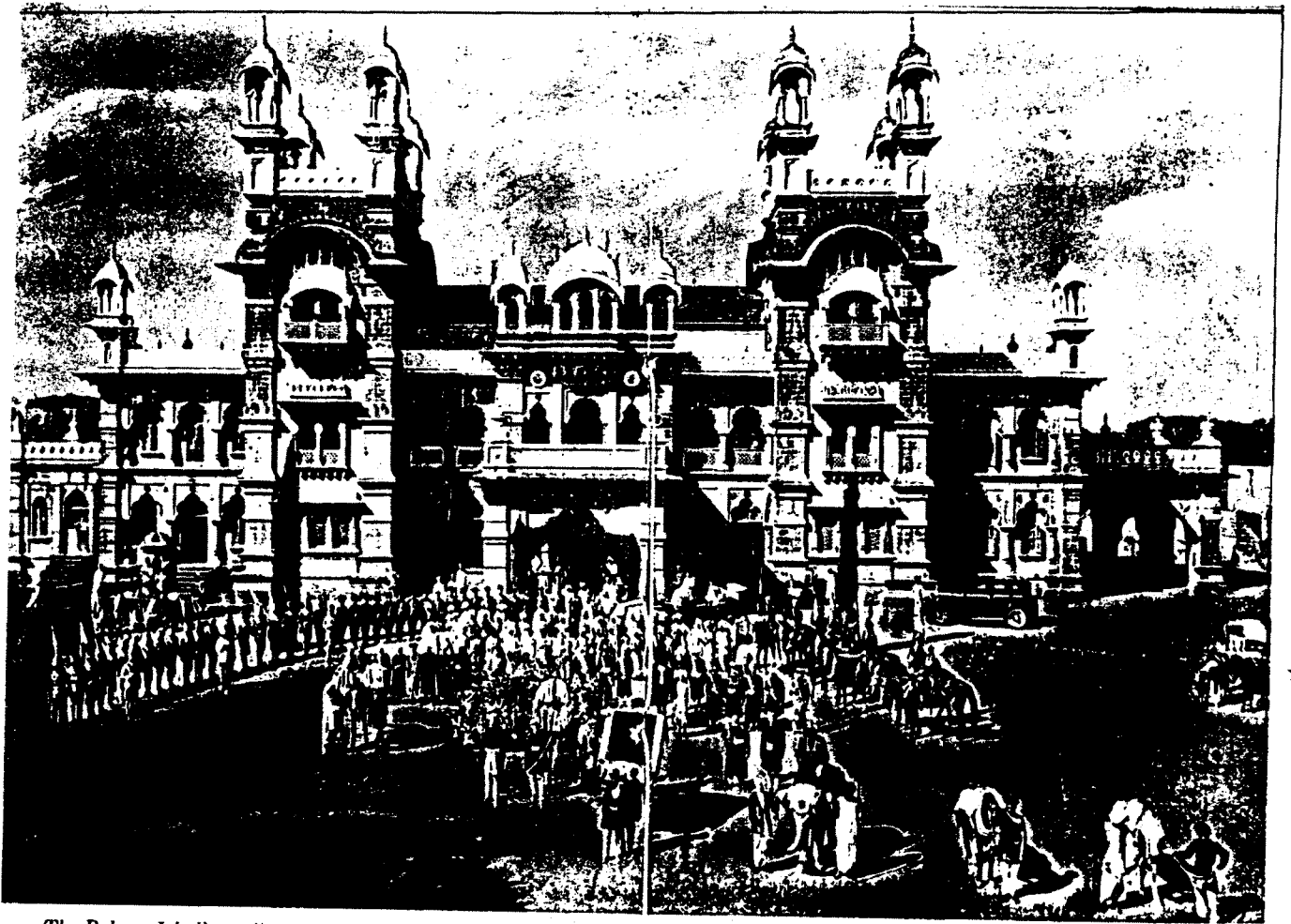
The vatan lands of the Mahars had gone under the control of the private bankers (Savakars). Babasaheb provided help in reinstating the ownership of the lands of the Mahars.⁴⁰

When there was an epidemic of plague in Ichalkaranji, the Mahars lived in huts outside the town of Ichalkaranji, the financial assistance for the construction of huts was given by Babasaheb.⁴¹

In spite of the non-cooperation of the British officials, Babasaheb could make drastic economic changes in the Jahagir of Ichalkaranji. He brought glory and prosperity to the Ichalkaranji City. Babasaheb was instrumental in making Ichalkaranji 'the Manchester of Maharashtra'.

(III) Administrative And Social Reforms :

Shrimant Babasaheb laid the foundation of Ichalkaranji Municipality at the beginning of his tenure to provide civic amenities to the people. He gave financial assistance to Ichalkaranji Municipality for supplying tap-water to his subjects. Even small villages under his Jahagir were also supplied with schools, chawadies, good roads and water supply facilities. Shrimant Babasaheb spent almost rupees one lakh, ten thousand for water supply. Almost the same



The Palace, Ichalkaranji

amount was spent on education facilities. One lakh, twenty five thousand rupees were spent on government offices, theatre, sanatoriums and guest-houses. He always had public welfare at his heart. And he spent an amount of about three lakhs rupees for constructing spacious and airy buildings. ⁴²

The administrative reforms introduced by Babasaheb were motivated by his desire to improve the quality of people's life by providing with civic amenities.

A.Public Works Department :

Inspite of the limited income of his Jahagir, Babasaheb, during his tenure of about fifty years provided his subjects with public wells, schools, roads, bridges and temples. The city of Ichalkaranji was provided with drinking water facility from the river Panchaganga. Bore wells were dug and hand pumps were attached to them in different villages in the Jahagir. Almost all the government buildings were built during his regime. ⁴³

The building of the Palace at Ichalkaranji was constructed before Babasaheb Ghorpade's accession to gadi. Under Babasaheb the public works department was encouraged to give out its best. Consequently, a

number of commodious public buildings were constructed to accommodate a high school, a library, hospital, vernacular school, clubs, guest house and municipal office. ⁴⁴

The expenditure incurred on the constructions of public buildings, temples, administrative buildings, courts, health resorts has been mentioned in tables given below :

Table - 2.4

Public Buildings :

Sr. No.	Name of the Building	Taluka	Expenditure Rs.
1.	Panchaganga Ghat & Towers.	Ichalkaranji	18,409
2.	Sou. Gangamai women resort.	Ichalkaranji	27,920
3.	Public Theatre, repairs.	Ichalkaranji	5,223
4.	Guest House	Ichalkaranji	13,063
5.	Narayan <u>Sabha</u> Hall	Ichalkaranji	36,782
6.	Hospital extensions	Ichalkaranji	28,730
7.	Ramateerth Sanatorium in Ajara	Ajara	1,319

Table - 2.5

Administrative Buildings :

Sr. No	Name of the Building	Taluka	Expenditure Rs.
1.	Central Prison	Ichalkaranji	23,450
2.	Police Station	Ichalkaranji	6,544
3.	Post office, extension	Ichalkaranji	3,277
4.	Administrator's office	Ajara	12,840
5.	Police Quarters	Ichalkaranji	8,560
6.	Anandbhuwan Bungalow	Ichalkaranji	20,000
7.	Hav-Mahal Bungalow	Ichalkaranji	16,000
8.	Madhavgiri Bungalow	Ajara	33,800
9.	Ajara Palace	Ajara	17,096
10.	Ajara Servant's house	Ajara	1,262
11.	Shipur Shivasadan Bungalow	Ajara	14,229
12.	Narsinvawadi oil(Pendol)	Ajara	5,421

Table - 2.6

Temples :

Sr. No.	Name of the Building	Taluka	Expenditure
1.	Vishnu Devalaya's Sabha Mandap.	Ichalkaranji	1,500
2.	Gadre Datta Temple	Ichalkaranji	1,725
3.	Hanuman Temple	Ichalkaranji	2,174

Table - 2.7

Health Resorts :

Sr. No.	Name of the Building	Taluka	Expenditure Rs.
1.	Wrestling amphitheatre	Ichalkaranji	1,252
2.	Talim	Ichalkaranji	4,093
3.	Mrs. Frier Badmitton Court and Club.	Ichalkaranji	6,550
4.	Ajara Health Resort	Ajara	2,300

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Water Supply

The water-works at Ichalkaranji, which were overhauled at a cost of rupees 60,000/- assured a plentiful supply of good water to all citizens of the town. ⁴⁶

In order to supply drinking water to the people of Ichalkaranji and Ajara. Babasaheb built public water tanks and reservoirs. The details regarding their expenditure has been given in the table no.2.8

Table - 2.8**Public Water Tanks And Wells:**

SrNo	Source of water supply	Taluka	ExpdtrRs.
1.	Narasoba Tank	Ichalkaranji	1,700
2.	Naromahadeo Tank	Ichalkaranji	1,831
3.	Dhor Tank	Ichalkaranji	1,900
4.	Ganpati Tank	Ichalkaranji	3,628
5.	Attar Tank	Ichalkaranji	2,800
6.	Khajina Tank	Ichalkaranji	1,697
7.	Shipur Public Well	Ajara	2,751
8.	Bahirewadi Public Well	Ajara	1,288
9.	Sarambalwadi Public Well	Ajara	1,355
10	Vairagwad Public Well	Ajara	317
11	Maligne Public Well	Ajara	1,019
12	Mativade Public Well	Ajara	935
13	Madilge Public Well	Ajara	1,183
14	Khotwadi Well	Ajara	1,299
15	Hativade Well	Ajara	925
16	Gingudge Well	Ajara	2,116
17	Belkundri Well	Ajara	3,976
	Total Rs.:	—	1,10,144

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Among these seventeen wells and tanks, built so as to supply water to people only one seems to have been earmarked for Dhor, an untouchable caste in Ichalkaranji.

Roads -

The total milage of motorable roads in the Ichalkaranji Jahagir was about sixty miles. The maintenance of the roads was undertaken by the department of Imarat-Karkhana of the Ichalkaranji Jahagir. A sum of rupees eighteen to twenty thousand was annually spent on the maintenance of roads and bridges. This was annually spent on the maintenance of roads and bridges. This expenditure was incurred through the local funds and other income in the Ichalkaranji Jahagir, as the Jahagir did not get the petrol fund and motor-tax. ⁴⁸

All the villages in Jahagir were connected by public roads. Babasaheb Ghorpade was keenly interested in connecting Ichalkaranji with Miraj-Kolhapur railway, because such a connection would have led to further development of Ichalkaranji, as an industrial centre in Southern Maharashtra. His efforts however, did not bear fruit and Ichalkaranji could not be on direct rail-route. ⁴⁹



*The King
Edward
Memorial
Dispensary,
Ichalkaranji*

Table - 2.9

Roads And Bridges :

Sr. No	Name of Road/Bridge	Taluka	Expenditure Rs.
1.	Lat Bridge	Ichalkaranji	14,625
2.	Yashoda Bridge	Ichalkaranji	12,608
3.	Kala Odha Dam	Ichalkaranji	4,976
4.	Arag-station Road	Ichalkaranji	4,000
5.	Ajara –Shipur Road	Ajara	41,000
6.	Sambhaji Bridge	Ajara	18,956
7.	Mahagaon Road	Ajara	5,376
8.	Ajara –Ramateerth Road	Ajara	2,605
9.	Gavase Bridge	Ajara	10,500
	Total Rs. :	—	1,14,646

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B.Health and Sanitation :

“During his administation, Babasaheb vastly improved the sanitary condition of almost all the village and towns in the Jahagir.”⁵¹

Hospital assistants used to be employed in the hospitals. Babasaheb however appointed L. M. P. & S., graduates as Chief Medical officers. Earlier there used to be only one compounder in the hospital. In 1930, Babasaheb appointed one more compounder and

in 1932, he appointed a B.P.N.A., Nurse in the hospital to help the female patients. In 1935, a maternity hospital was opened with the financial support of Babasaheb.

The women in the Jahagir were provided with the facility of getting the treatment of trained nurses and expert doctors during pregnancy and for delivery. From 1929 onwards all the students both male and female, in all the schools in the city had to undergo medical examination at least once a year. ⁵²

In 1913, Babasaheb Ghorpade spent fifteen thousand rupees and built up hospital building, and named it, "King Edward Hospital." Patients could get admitted in the hospital. There were different sections like modern therapy, contagious diseases and post-mortem. The servant's quarters as well as the mess building were attached to the main hospital. ⁵³

In the initial stages forty to fifty patients used to get treatment from the hospital. Later the number rose to seventy five. The amount to be spent on the hospital rose to rupees two thousand five hundred from rupees one thousand five hundred. ⁵⁴

Though, the hospital at Ajara was opened in 1883, its building was built in 1887. A very beautiful garden was also cultivated in front of the hospital at Ajara.

During 1889 to 1930, people from Ajara area suffered from "plague". Due to the initiation of plague vaccination at the hospital, the disease was brought under control to a certain extent.

For the health of the animals, Babasaheb opened a government aided Veterinary Hospital in Ichalkaranji.⁵⁵

C. Police And Internal Security :

For the security of life and property of the people, Babasaheb increased the number of police from fifty to one hundred. The Police, under his control had to be very meticulous about their uniform. There were some armed Police also. Babasaheb appointed retired military-men to train the police in exercises, races and firing. Extraordinary and meritorious Police constables and officers were offered prizes. Babasaheb insisted that police documents must be remarkably clean. He made arrangements for the inspection of the Police documents for the superior authorities. He made some ammendments to police rules on the suggestion of the Police officer Mr. Raosaheb Joshi.⁵⁶

The salary of the Police rose from rupees five per moth to rupees twelve per month. The provision for their provident fund was also made. Their services as

made pensionable. They were given travelling allowances. The police were given rigorous training. The administration gave policemen with good merits.

Babasaheb Ghorpade trained his police to be impartial even in religious crimes. Babasaheb Ghorpade spent rupees 6,544/- for building a separate police station. 'Lock-up' arrangement was also made in the police station. Forty-six new rifles were provided for the armed police in 1942.

Babasaheb recruited educated adults in the police force and gave them legal education. Babasaheb arranged for Police force patrolling during night. He used to make some surprise visits to patrolling units at night, especially during the epidemic of plague. Babasaheb would take two mounted armed police officials with him, and visit slum areas for consoling the sufferers at the time of fire at night time. ⁵⁷

"Babasaheb arranged for prisons for punishing the criminals. Earlier, the prison was in the government police station itself. Babasaheb built a new building for prison in 1910. It was modified and extended in 1928. The expenditure of amount of Rs. 23,450 was incurred on it. He paid special attention to the cleanliness and health of the prisoners". ⁵⁸

D.Ichalkaranji Municipality :

The civic affairs of the town having an area of 7.59 square miles were managed by a municipality established in 1893 and were regulated under the Bombay Municipal broghs Act (XVIII). The Municipal Council was composed of twenty members all elected. Two of the seats were reserved for women and one for the untouchables. There were five Municipal committees, viz., The standing committee and committees for public health, public works, octroi and Law. The Chief executive officer was at the head of the administrative organization. ⁵⁹

“In 1941, the population of the Ichalkaranji city rose to 18,573. The annual income of the Municipality in 1941 was rupees 21,202 / 11 / 6. Its expenditure in the same year was rupees 18,789 / 15 / 6. The average taxation per person in the city was rupees 1 / 4. This was the lowest tax in all municipalities in the region. Babasaheb built forty-eight public sanitations, including a new sanatorium on the outskirts of Ichalkaranji city. He built a ghat on the river Panchganga. During the term of office of Babasaheb Ghorpade there was no municipal octroi on any goods brought into the city. This was speciality of Ichalkaranji only. ⁶⁰

E. Judiciary :

Upto 1896, there was only one judge for Ajara and Ichalkaranji. He found it very difficult to administer, justice at both the places simultaneously. But in 1933 a belief was appointed to serve notices to the concerned persons. A special typist was also appointed for the clerical work. Till 1941, there was no prison for civil offences in the Jahagir. In 1892, there were only four advocates in the Jahagir. But 1942, there were fifteen advocates in the Jahagir. Nine were law-graduates. A separate court was established at Ajara , by Babasaheb Ghorpade in 1898. ⁶¹

In this way justice was rendered to the subjects cheaply and quickly.

F.Eradication Of Untouchability :

In addition to the administrative reforms intended and for the better civic facilities for people of Ichalkaranji, reforms directly bearing on the socially backward people were given attention . by Babasaheb of Ichalkaranji.

Shahu Chhatrapati of Kolhapur (1874-1922) had introduced social reforms. The Prime Minister of Rajaram Chhatrapati, son and successor to Shahu

Chhatrapati of Kolhapur, inquired with Ichalkaranji regarding the reforms introduced for the untouchable (Harijans) in the Ichalkaranji Jahagir. In reply the Karbhart of Ichalkaranji wrote in a letter dated 1st August, 1938. ⁶²

The following steps had been taken for the spread of education among the depressed classes and for removing untouchability in the Jahagir.

- (i) Primary education was made free to all students upto IV Standard in the Jahagir. In the Adi Venkatrao Shala (Venkatrao Highschool) half freeships were given to Harijan students in Standard V to VII irrespective on any qualifications similarly half freeships were given to deserving Harijan students.
- (ii) Two scholarships of rupees three and rupees two were awarded in Adi Venkatrao Shala, Ichalkaranji and Venkatrao A.V. School respectively and two special-half seholarships were given in the Govindrao Highschool for the Harijan students.
- (iii) There were in all 228 Harijan students in the Jahagir schools. A Chhatraniketan opened for the lodging in the Jahagir schools. A Chhatraniketan opened for the lodging of

students under an efficient Harijan teacher, was kept open for all classes including Harijans. Students were taking advantage of the same. Another Chhatraniketan was started in another school which was attended to by the majority of Harijan pupils under a Harijan teacher, so that as many as possible of untouchables students could avail themselves of this facility.

Two students of the Chambhar caste, an untouchable caste, were sent at the Jahagir expenses to Agra(U.P.) for receiving training in tannery and the manufacture of leather goods.

- (iv) The Harijans were given appointments in offices and schools. There were 55 Harijan employees, being 9.6% of the total number of the employees in the Jahagir. In the Educational Department more than 10% of the total number of lecturers come from these classes.
- (v) Untouchability was not observed in schools and offices. In public meetings Meherban Shrimant, Jahagirdar Saheb insisted on the Harijans mixing freely with all others. Their wants were attended to properly. ⁶³

A Harijan preacher was engaged for going round and preaching and holding Bhajans for the religious and moral uplift of the community. Arrangements had been made for the supply of good drinking water for the different Harijan communities by building cisterns or standing pipes near their quarters at Ichalkaranji. At Ichalkaranji milk was provided to the children of poor people from the Jahagir Funds which amounted to about Rupees 90/- preference being given to the children of despressed classes, their number being 30% of the total number of children.

This letter from the Karbhari reflects upon the nature of social reforms introduced for the benefit of harijans in Ichalkaranji principality.

(IV) AN ESTIMATE :

The reform movement in Maharashtra, in the real sense term begins with Mahatma Jotirao Phuley. His pioneering work in uplifting the position of women, untouchable and widows is remarkable in the history of India. He, with the help of his wife, Savitribai, started schools for women and untouchables, and opened the water tank in his house for their use. The widows suffered under the restrictions imposed by the Brahmin orthodoxy. Jotirao Phuley arranged widow-remarriages.

Rajarshi Shahu Chhatrapati of Kolhapur, Karmavir Bhaurao Patil and Vithal Ramaji Shinde continued the work of Jotirao Phuley in introducing socio-economic reforms.

Shahu Chhatrapati tried to solve the financial problems of the non-brahmins and the untouchables by opening hostels. He also encouraged classical Indian music, Marathi drama and wrestling. He removed the disabilities of the untouchables in the Kolhapur State.

Taking inspiration from Shahu Chhatrapati, Karmavir Bhaurao Patil established the "Rayat Shikshan Sanstha" and propagated the "earn and learn" scheme for the benefit of poor deserving students from all the caste.

Maharshi V.R.Shinde established the 'Dispressed class Mission' and served the untouchables in Maharashtra.

The legacy of these great social reformers was to a certain extent continued by Babasaheb Ghorpade of Ichalkaranji .

Babasaheb Ghorpade introduced economic, educational, administrative, social reforms in the Ichalkaranji principality in the period 1892, when he became the jahagirdar of Ichalkaranji to 1943, when he breathed his last.

In this period of about fifty years he faced a number of problems in the administration in his Jahagir.

In economic field he introduced agriculture, industry, and trade and commerce. His help to co-operative movement in Ichalkaranji is noteworthy. This, the important contribution of Babasaheb Ghorapde to Ichalkaranji.

In the field of education, his reforms are of general nature though, he provided for the spread for education in different stages. His administration did not give sufficient attention and encouragement to the backward communities.

In administrative reforms also his emphasis was on improving the general administration of Ichalkaranji Jahagir, and thereby to improve the quality of life of the people in Ichalkaranji.

In the Kolhapur state, under whose authority Narayanrao Govindrao alias Babasaheb was functioning, Shahu Chhatrapati had initiated reforms to remove untouchability & in the first decade of the twentieth century itself Babasaheb must have known and seen those reforms, but he did not introduce social reforms in Ichalkaranji following the example of the Chhatrapati. He seems to have started the eradication of untouchability only in thirties and that too not as

vigorously as in Kolhapur State, which had to inquire about the progress in the matter in July 1938.

Babasaheb Ghorpade, thus, utilized his powers as Jajirdar of Ichalkaranji for the betterment of people. Essentially, because of his economic reforms he is famous in Maharashtra, as he succeeded in making Ichalkaranji the Manchestor of Maharashtra.

NOTES

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6. Anon, op.cit., p.29.
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21. Anon, op. cit, P.31.
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CHAPTER - III

***ADMINISTRATION OF
ICHALKARANJI
MUNICIPALITY***

CHAPTER - III

ADMINISTRATION OF ICHALKARANJI MUNICIPALITY:

The year 1892 has a significant importance in the history of Ichalkaranji Jahagir, as it marks the beginning of a new era. It is the year of accession of Shrimant Narayanrao Babasaheb Ghorpade a young man of twenty two years. This political event in reality had social and economic implications in the Jahagir. His broad vision and future-oriented outlook, gave a fillip to the industrial and educational development in the Jahagir. He also dreamed of a clean, beautiful and self-sustaining Ichalkaranji town and for making his dream come true, in the year 1893, took initiative in establishing a municipality for the town.

Earlier in the year 1850, the British Government of Bombay Province had promulgated the Bombay Municipalities Act and also had approved the municipal rules and regulations prepared by Kolhapur State's Standing Legislative Committee and the Council of Administration for the town of Kolhapur. Accordingly, Kolhapur Town Municipality was established in the year 1854. Shrimant Narayanrao Ghorpade prayed to the Provincial Government through Kolhapur Darbar

for the establishment of Ichalkaranji Town Municipality under the prevailing Act and within the framework of Kolhapur Municipal rules and regulations. The Government was pleased to grant the prayer and on 21/08/1893 , Shrimant Babasaheb issued the ordinance for applying Kolhapur Municipal Rules and regulations to Ichalkaranji Municipality also. On 01/09/1893, Ichalkaranji Town Municipality formally came into being. He also allotted the Jahagir -owned Dharmashala and the adjoining quarters near the Narasoba temple to the newly created body for housing its office for the time being.¹

The Government appointed an officer of Tahasildar's level to supervise the working of the municipality. Also, the following leading citizens were nominated as the non-Government members of the municipal council :

1. Mahadeo Babaji Paranjape,
2. Keshav Shankar Tamhankar,
3. Sadashiv Mahadaji Desphande,
4. Naro Abaji Foujdar,
5. Ramchandra Baglal Dabhade,
6. Narhar Gangadhar Date,
7. Ramchandra Babadeo Apte,
8. Shantaram Devidhar Vasagade,

9. Appanna Kurbitte,
10. Subbarao Aba Kharade,
11. Mir Mohammad Bin Mujawar ²

It may be noted here that out of the eleven nominated members six were from the Brahmin caste, two perhaps from Lingayat sect and one each from Maratha caste and Mahammadan religion. The domination of the Brahmin caste in this category is quite clear.

The municipal council composed of twenty members, all elected. Two of the seats were reserved for women and one for the untouchables. There were five municipal committees, namely, the Standing Committee and the committees for Public Health, Public Works, Octroi and Law. The chief Executive Officer was at the head of the administrative organization. ³

In the 1893, the population of Ichalkaranji Town was around 7,000. The municipality employed twenty five workers, while its income was Rupees 2,297.50 during the first year. In the initial years, municipal work was mostly concerned with cleanliness and maintenance of public roads, drainage and latrines.

This chapter on the administration of Ichalkaranji municipality has been divided into : (I) Three Phases, (II)Municipal Administration, (III) Income and Expenditure, (IV) Health and Sanitation and (V) Conclusion.

(I) THREE PHASES :

The development of the Ichalkaranji municipality and diversification of its activities from 1893 to 1949 can be divided, for the convenience of study, into three periods. The first period is from 1893, the year in which the municipality was established to the year 1927, when the municipality shifted to its own house. This is the early phase of the municipality. The second period is from 1927 to 1945, when for the first time a popular rather than a nominated, person was elected as the President of the municipal council. This is period of agitation and growth. The third period is from 1945 to 1949, when the existence of the jahagir came to an end.

A. First phase-(1893to1927)-

Administered wholly by the government.

The period of twelve years between 1893 and 1904, the municipality did not have substantial income resources as the town itself was under-developed. In 1898 plague epidemic hit the area and decimated the town's population.

During the period 1904 to 1927, the foundation of Ichalkaranji as an industrial town was laid down. The workers who had migrated to the town in search of employment began to settle down and the population began to increase consequently, the town expanded and the income of the municipality increased leading to the extension of municipal activities.

It ought to be particularly mentioned that Shrimant Babasaheb Ghorpade made deliberate efforts to boost the industrialization of the town. The Ichalkaranji Government and Administration of municipality exempted the handloom industry from payment of income-tax, sales-tax, octroi-duty on raw materials etc. The municipality certainly would have generated considerable income for itself from octroi collections; but handloom industry had to be protected with a view to let it stabilize itself so that it may grow and become a source of income for the municipality in

future. As a result of the protection, the handloom industry began to grow in Ichalkaranji Jahagir.

On 12/03/1927, the municipality shifted its offices to its own building constructed at a cost of Rs. 12,000/-. Today, the building is known as the old municipality building. ⁴

**B. Second phase- (1927 to 1944) -
Administered by the government
and people's representatives.**

The foundation for the future development of Ichalkaranji town was laid down during 1904-1927 when the powerlooms took place of handlooms to a large extent, and population began to increase. There was consequent increase in demands for more municipal services than before. Citizens particularly desired that the municipality should shoulder the responsibilities of public health and education. ⁵

The constitution of Ichalkaranji municipality was shaped by the Bombay Municipal Act of 1850, which was applicable to all municipalities established in the Bombay Presidency. Government nomination and property franchise were the main consideration in the formation of the councils, which were dominated by the government nominees and propertied class. The nine

nominated members enjoyed majority over the six elected members, with substantial property. ⁶

For this purpose, the town was divided into nine municipal wards, three wards making an electoral constituency voters with property franchise in each constituency elected three representatives each. These nine electees were nominated to the municipal council by the Jahagirdar as his representatives. The other nine members were appointed by the British government. The chairman of the managing committee was elected from among the elected members.

He was answerable to the propertied class in Ichalkaranji, which sent him. As a result, although the amended Municipal Act in force in the British territory was not made applicable to Ichalkaranji town, the municipality rendered consistently progressive services to the population. During the period of sixteen years from 1928 to 1944, leading citizens like N.G.Gogte, V.K.Sathe, J.K.Sathe, D.R.Kale, D.S.Ghorpade, Dr.M.D.Joshi, B.N.Ranade, M.B.Murdande and A.P.Mithari devoted their time and efforts to the working of the municipality and endeavored to bring about the development of town. ⁷

C. Third phase (1945-1949).

The third phase marks the beginning of the golden era of Ichalkaranji municipality. The Kolhapur Darbar presented the municipality to elect its president from among the elected members. For the president's post, Dhondiram Tavanappa Chivate's name was proposed by Annappa Adappa Bhoje, which was seconded by Balgonda Paygonda Patil. Dhondiram Chivate, a Jain by religion, became the municipality's first-ever elected president, while Pirgonda Hongonda Patil its first-ever vice-president with effect from 01/06/1945 ⁸

On 3.6.1945, a public meeting was organized on the palace ground. Fifty two years after coming into existence, Ichalkaranji municipality was now being headed by a duly elected people's representative. This was the beginning of the democratic process in the town municipality. On this occasion, Tricolour was unfurled at the hands of Popatlal Shah, former municipal president of Poona City. ⁹

In the year provisions of the Kolhapur Municipal Borough Act, Ichalkaranji town was now divided into five municipal wards. Each ward could elect four councillors. Also, seats were reserved for women, minorities, Harijans and Muslims. The eligibility criteria for the aspiring councillor was that he should

be resident of Ichalkaranji town, twenty five years old and minimum educated up to fourth vernacular standard. ¹⁰

In the year 1945, Kashibai Babaji Jadhav was elected as councilor from the women's reserve constituency, while Azam Mohammad Hasan Imam was elected from the Muslim reserve constituency and Chandraram Kamble elected from Depressed Classes reserve constituency. ¹¹

The above description makes it clear that even in those days, constituencies were reserved for certain classes with a view of securing their participation in public administration.

(II) MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION :

The growth and development of an institution depends, to a large extent, on its administrative efficiency. Municipal administration is an important constituent in the development of a town municipality. The municipal administration looks after the primary services like public health, sanitation, water-supply, maintenance of thoroughfares, sewage disposal and drainage, etc. Besides, it is also expected to undertake appropriate efforts for the educational, social, cultural, physical and mental development of the town's

residents. A municipal council attempts to effectively fulfill these functions through efficient administration.

When the Ichalkaranji Town Municipality was established on 1st September, 1893, its administration was being looked after not by the people's elected representatives but by the Government-nominated persons. The municipal president was also being nominated by the Government ¹². From time to time, the Government nominees rendered guidance to the municipal employees who numbered twenty five at the beginning. In later years, the number of employees grew. The following statistics shows this numeric growth. ¹³

Table 3.1

**Number of employees of Ichalkaranji municipality -
(1893 to 1943)**

Sr. No.	Year	Total Employees
1.	1893	25
2.	1913	26
3.	1933	30
4.	1943	59

During first five years, the municipality largely depended on property taxes for its income. ¹⁴

In the year 1941, Ichalkaranji Municipality was accorded the status of a "City Municipality" under the Kolhapur Municipal Act.¹⁵

The following were the major officials in the municipal administration:

A. Chief officers -

It was mandatory under the Municipal act to create the office of the Chief Officer of the level of Taluka Mamlatdar. It is not known who was the first Chief Officer of Ichalkaranji Municipality in the year 1941. But from 1943 onwards, several able administrators adorned the office of the Chief Officer in Ichalkaranji Municipality. The list is as under:¹⁶

1. D.B. Prabhu,
2. R.B. Bhide,
3. R.G. Chitnis,
4. V.K. Harale, B.A.,
5. A.S. Hingmire, B.A.,LL.B.,
6. A.N. Ainapure, B.A.,
7. K.A. Bhosale, B.A.,
8. V.G. Shahane, B.A.,

9. B.N. Nalawade,
10. V.R. Samant, B.Com.,
11. N.M. Watve, B.A.,LL. B.

Chief Officer was the principal Officer in the municipal administration. On his efficiency depended the development of the municipality. It was his responsibility to implement the decisions taken by the municipal councillors who were the representatives of the town's residents. Among the more important functions he had to fulfill were tax recovery, recruitment, supervising and guiding the functioning of various municipal departments and to exercise control over the day-to-day working of the municipality. The municipality would render its services effectively only if the relations between its Chief Officer and the municipal councillors were harmonious . On the other hand, people suffer when the Chief Officer was corrupt or if there was friction between him and the councillors.

B. Other administrative staff -

For administering the diverse services, several departments were created in the municipal administration. The staff of these departments helped the Chief Officer in discharging his responsibilities. In Ichalkaranji Municipality, these departments were:

C. Public health and sanitation -

During his administration, Babasaheb Ghorpade vastly improved the sanitary condition of almost all the villages and towns in the Jahagir.¹⁷

In 1935, a maternity hospital was opened with the financial support of Babasaheb. The women in the city were provided with the facility of getting the treatment of trained nurses and expert doctors during pregnancy and for delivery. From 1929 onwards, all the students, both male and female, in all the schools in the city had to undergo medical examination at least once a year.¹⁸

The basic objective behind establishing a municipality was to ensure good health of the residents by collecting and disposing off the waste, garbage and sewage. During the period of thirty-four year between 1893 and 1937, Ichalkaranji Municipality generally paid more attention to sanitation, sewage disposal and public health.¹⁹

D. Cash section -

A cash section was established in the municipality right since its beginning. The section prepared the annual budgets and managed the finance to complete the budgeted works. It also maintained account books of the municipality and was headed by a chief accountant.²⁰

E. Public works department -

This department too was established from the beginning. Construction and maintenance of public roads, Dharmashalas, water cisterns and tanks etc., was the responsibility of this department. The records reveal that the managing committee meeting held for approving the budgets for the year 1895-96 had earmarked a sum of rupees 1100/-for maintenance of roads and of rupees 50/- for the maintenance of the Dharmashala.²¹

In spite of the limited income of the jahagir, Babasahed Ghorpade, during his tenure of fifty years, provided his subjects with public wells, schools roads, bridges and temples. The city of Ichalkaranji was provided with the facility of drinking water from the river Panchaganga. Bore-wells were dug and hand pumps were attached to them in different places.

The expenditure incurred on the construction of public buildings, temples, administrative buildings etc., has been mentioned in the table given below.²²

Table 3.2

Construction of public buildings-

Sr No	Name of the Building	Expenditure Rs.
1.	Panchaganga Ghat and Towers	18,409
2.	Sou.Gangabai Woman's Hostel	27,920
3.	Public Theartre Repairs	5,223
4.	Guest House	13,063
5.	Narayan Sabha Grah	36,782
6.	Hospital Extension	28,730
7.	Central Prison	23,450
8.	Police Station	6,544
9.	Post Office Extension	3,277
10.	Police Quarters	8,560
11.	Hava Mahal Bungalow	16,000
12.	Gadre Datta Temple	1,725
13.	Hanuman Temple	2,174
14.	Talim(Gymnasium)building	4,093
15.	Mrs.Fryer Badminton Court & Club	6,550
	Total :	Rs.2,02,500

(III) INCOME AND EXPENDITURE OF ICHALKARANJI MUNICIPALITY :

Municipal finance plays a very important role in the development of a town. By mobilizing the needed finance and spending it wisely, municipal administration provided increasingly better services and facilities to the citizens. The efficiency and effectivity of the administration, however, depends on the quantum of its income. A municipality may explore different avenues and resort to specific strategies for mobilizing additional income.

In the following paragraphs, the income and expenditure of the Ichalkaranji Municipality are being studied briefly.

A. Municipal income -

Ichalkaranji municipality had income from direct taxes, like octroi, property, water cess, entertainment and sanitation taxes, which were the main source of income. In addition, there were other sources of income from licence fees etc.

In keeping with the general urban development trends, Ichalkaranji town too developed substantially during the 50 years period from 1893 to 1943. ²³

Commensurate with this growth, it became necessary for the municipal administration to provide increasing public services that in turn, increased the need for additional income. The Table below shows the growth of municipal income during the period 1893-94 to 1943-44.²⁴

Table 3.3

Growth of Ichalkaranji municipality's income and rise of percentage during 1893-94 to 1943-44

Sr.No.	Year	Income (Rs.)	Percentage Rise
1.	1893-94	2,297.50	100.00
2.	1903-04	3,427.48	149.19
3.	1913-14	10,492.86	453.28
4.	1923-24	12,597.00	548.41
5.	1933-34	12,751.90	555.11
6.	1943-44	22,345.62	972.79

The following may be considered as the income head of Ichalkaranji Municipality.

Income from taxes -

Octroi duty-

When the Municipality was established in the year 1893, octroi duty leviable on the items imported into the town was not considered as an income head. Shrimant Babasaheb Ghorpade was aware that levy of octroi usually retards the growth of commerce, eventually affecting the development of a town. Hence, until 1945, the municipality did not collect octroi on the goods imported.²⁵ The municipality was accorded the sanction to collect octroi on the goods imported by the Kolhapur Darbar, in its letter no. LGF(1) dated 24/04/1945, to begin levying the octroi duty with effect from 01/06/1945. It took some time to raise the required infrastructure such as recruitment and training of octroi personnel, erecting octroi check posts, etc. and the octroi collection began from 01/06/1945.²⁶

Since 19/04/1948 at the rate of rupees 3-2 annas on finished textile goods like saris imported in the town. On being petitioned by the local textile merchants, this rate was reduced by 50% to rupees 1-9 annas.²⁷

Property taxes -

Octroi collection emerged as an income head for the municipality only in 1945. Prior to it, taxes on residential and commercial house properties was an important income item for the municipality since its beginning. The very first meeting of the municipality's managing committee in 1893 had resolved to levy property taxes at the following rates. ²⁸

Table 3.4

Property tax rates In 1893

Sr. No.	Value of Property	Rate of Tax
1.	Upto rupees 100	Annas 8
2.	rupees 100-250	Rupee 1
3.	rupees 250-500	Rupees 2
4.	rupees 500-800	Rupees 3
5.	rupees 800-1500	Rupees 4
6.	rupees 1500-2000	Rupees 5
7.	Above rupees 2000	Rupees 6

These rates were gradually enhanced in relation to the need of more funds for providing increasing municipal services and also taking into consideration the increasing cost of living.

In the year 1944, the municipality invited suggestions and objections from the citizens to modify the property tax rates. It was then decided that no property be exempted from the payment of municipal tax and that minimum property tax be eight annas. ²⁹

The Table below shows the property tax income of Ichalkaranji municipality during the period from 1895 to 1993. ³⁰

Table - 3.5
Property tax
(1895, 1951 and 1955)

Sr. No.	Year	Property Tax (Rs.)
1.	1895	3,000
2.	1951	29,324
3.	1955	43,427

Property taxes indeed were the major source of municipality's income in early years, e.g. in 1894-95, the total income of rupees 3,486-11-9, property taxes had contributed rupees 3,000. ³¹

Other taxes-

Water cess -

The managing committee of the municipality had decided to levy water cess in the year 1944. It was also decided that the yearly minimum property tax should be eight annas and the yearly minimum water cess should be four annas. Yet another suggestion was that water cess should be half the property tax or not more than maximum rupees six annually. ³²

The income received by the municipality from the water cess during the years 1944 and 1951 are shown in the Table below.

Table - 3.6
Inome of water cess
(1944 and 1951)

Sr. No.	Years	Water Cess Income
1.	1944	rupees 3,327
2.	1951	rupees 11,787

The above Table shows that the income from water cess has gone on increasing gradually.

Entertainment tax -

Sections 58(j) and 61(1) of the Bombay Municipal Act, 1925, a municipality is empowered to collect entertainment tax.³³ The Government Resolution no. 591(98) dated 16/01/1942 laid down the rates of entertainment tax on each showing of the theatrical performance, cine film and circus, as follows.³⁴

1. Each show of drama/performance rupees 4/-
2. Each show of circus rupees 5/-
3. Each show of cinema rupee 1/-

Ichalkaranji Municipality, however, had long tradition of collecting the entertainment tax. As far back as 1936, the municipality used to receive four annas for each cine-show from the local Narayan Cinema Talkies. In later years, the tax rates were revised from time to time and income from this head increased correspondingly. The following Table shows the entertainment tax income of Ichalkaranji Municipality during the period 1942-43 to 1951-52.³⁵

Table – 3.7

**Income of entertainment tax
(1942-43,1945-46 and 1951-52)**

Sr. No.	Years	Entertainment Tax Income
1.	1942-43	rupees 113
2.	1945-46	rupees 500
3.	1951-52	rupees 770

Wheel tax -

The municipality began levying wheel tax on the vehicles plying in its area only from 1951. Its resolution no.439 dated 14/02/1951. The tax was levied at the annual rate of Rs.1.50 on bullock carts and at Rs. 3.00 on all other vehicles whether owned or rented. ³⁶ In the year 1951 the wheel tax income of Ichalkaranji Municipality was rupees 1,412/-

Sanitation tax -

Ichalkaranji Municipality traditionally collected the sanitation tax under two heads - general sanitation tax and special sanitation tax. The general sanitation tax used to be collected along with the property tax and the money was used for cleaning public latrines,

urinals, drains, etc., as well as for maintaining cleanliness of public thoroughfares. It is not known as to, in which year both the general and special sanitation taxes were first imposed. However, the public notice dated 09/11/1944, the municipality had invited suggestions and objections from the citizens about the sanitation tax, to which some had suggested that it may levied at the rate of Rs. 6 per annum per latrine, while others had proposed the rate of rupees five. This makes it clear that sanitation tax was being levied prior to 1944. ³⁷

About the special sanitation tax, however, Bombay Government's letter no. HUN.2643 of 26/04/1954 grants a permission to the municipality to raise the special sanitation tax from rupees eight to rupees eighteen per year. Obviously, the municipality used to collect the special sanitation tax. In the early period the town had latrines that were unhygienic. Hence, these were banned in 1898. ³⁸

The Table below gives the information about the sanitary tax collections of Ichalkaranji Municipality during the period 1941-42 to 1951-52.

Table - 3.8

**Sanitary tax collections of Ichalkaranji
municipality (1941-42,1945-46 and 1951-1952)**

Sr.No.	Years	General Sanitary Tax (Rs.)	Special Sanitary Tax (Rs.)
1.	1941-42	1,338	1,399
2.	1945-46	1,218	1,404
3.	1951-52	3,294	4,165

The above Table shows that the collections from the general and special sanitation tax was the lowest at rupees 2,622 in the year 1944-45, while the collections from the special sanitary tax alone was highest at rupees 4,165.

An analysis of the various taxes and their collections over a period of time shows that Ichalkaranji Municipality largely depended on taxes for its income.

Income from other sources -

Income from municipal properties and civic powers

Right from the beginning, Ichalkaranji Municipality derived part of its income by letting/hiring out the use of its properties as well as by exercising its authority to levy fees, etc., for the services rendered. These generally included. :

1. Rents for the use of vacant plots and buildings,
2. Fees imposed on property transfers,
3. Fees/charges collected on medical services rendered in municipal hospitals,
4. Profession-tax, warrant fees, notice fees, and attachment fees,
5. Income from Bazaars and use of Municipal godowns.

The vacant plots owned by the municipality were often let out for public use to raise an open shed (mandap), Group rent, ditch rent, board rent, block rent, Vyankoba Ground rent, Market rent, etc., were also collected. The income from buildings included rents from municipal buildings of vegetable market, shopping centre, Mangal Dham (community hall),

mutton and fish market. The temporary large pendals (Shamiyanas) were also erected on municipal grounds on payment of rent.

Sections 58(J) and twenty of the Bombay Municipal Act (year 1925) authorizes a municipality to levy fees on temporary private use of public roads and grounds.³⁹ By exercising this authority, since Nov. 1944 Ichalkaranji Municipality, had leased out its vacant plots near Narayan Tank to Sidram Rajaram Shinde on an annual rent of rupees 110/- and to Ramu Krishna Sutar on an annual rent of rupees 96/-. The leases were renewable every five years.⁴⁰

The municipality also derives some income from its hospitals and dispensaries. These include outdoor and indoor treatment fees, ambulance rent, X-ray fees, medical fitness certificate fees, laboratory fees, maternity fees, operation theatre fees, etc.

Licence fees -

This income head of Ichalkaranji Municipality includes commercial licence fees, fees for trading in a specific commodity, hawker's licence fees, pan shop licence fees, map fees, notice fees, warrant fees, etc., Rent is also collected for the use of utensils, furniture, telephone at the Municipality's Mangal Dham hall,

education cess, construction permit fees etc. The income derived from these sources during the period from 1942-43 to 1951-52 is shown in the following Table .⁴¹

Table – 3.9

Income from License Fees

(1942-43, 1945-46 and 1951-52)

Sr.No.	Year	Wheel Tax Income (Rs.)
1.	1942-43	4,042
2.	1945-46	11,385
3.	1951-52	27,301

Income from donations and grants -

Donations and grants also made equally significant contribution to Ichalkaranji Municipality's income. It used to receive government grants into the following accounts.:

1. Employee's dearness allowance,
2. Employee's leave salary,
3. Public health and amenities,
4. Maintenance of public roads,
5. Leprosy eradication grant,
6. Town development plans,

7. Latrine conversion grant,
8. Small savings incentive grant,
9. Stamp duty grant,
10. Other grants such as medical grant, land revenue

(non-agricultural assessment) grant, motor vehicles, subsidy on entertainment tax, subsidy on small savings, subsidy on family welfare scheme, etc.

Besides the above, Ichalkaranji Municipality also used to receive certain income from the following sources :⁴²

1. Interest on investments,
2. Interest on divisible taxes,
3. Interest on monopoly items,
4. Copying and comparing fees,
5. Sale of scrap,
6. Auctions of fruit-bearing trees and the grass grown on municipal lands,
7. Sale of voter's lists and printed forms,
8. Rebate on education cess,
9. Rent for road roller,
10. Fines levied on employees,
11. Electricity charges,
12. Octroi Special Deposits/ Recoveries,
13. Sale of soil recovered after cleaning municipal ponds and tanks,

14. Fire fighting expenses,
15. Scavenger's charges,
16. Encroachment fines and recoveries,
17. Cement mixer machine rent,
18. Miscellaneous.

The above description makes it clear that since its beginning in 1893, the income of the municipality has shown a continuous rise. It is also seen that as the years went by, the municipality mobilized ever new resources for raising its income. The growth of income shown in the following table no. 3.10 and graph no. 3.1

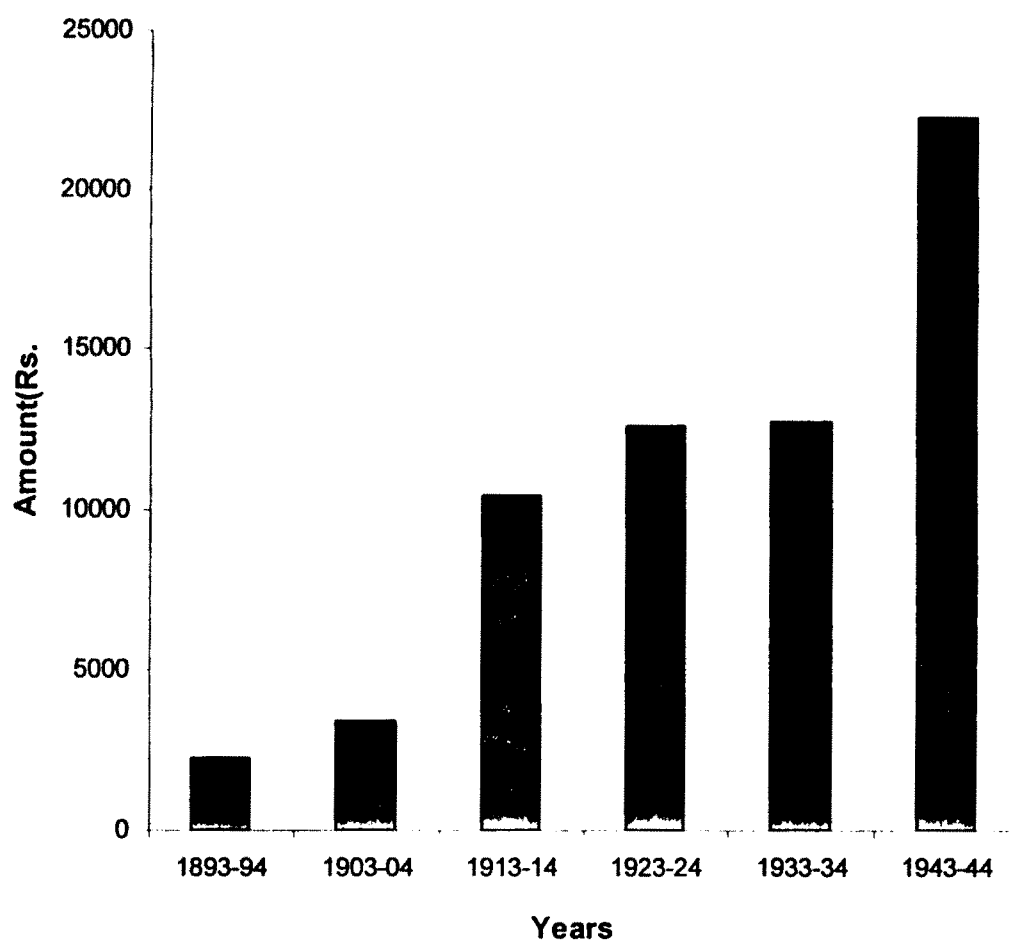
Table - 3.10

The growth of Income

Sr. No.	Year	Total Income Rs.
1	1892-93	2,297.50
2	1902-03	3,427.48
3	1912-13	10,412.86
4	1923-24	12,597.00
5	1933-34	12,751.90
6	1943-44	22,345.62
Total-		63,832.36

43

Graph 3.1
Decadal Growth in Ichalkaranji
Municipality's Income



However, a municipality has to earn a certain volume of income to satisfactorily meet its expenses. In fact, municipal expenditure plays an important role in the overall development of a town. Hence, it is necessary to study these items of expenditure also.

B. MUNICIPAL EXPENDITURE :

Expenditure is an important aspect of a public institution like municipality as it reflects on its priorities. In the items of expenditure sufficient attention ought to be given to the expenditure on establishment (salary, wages, gratuity funds and others). It is necessary to keep expenditure in a reasonable limit, so that sufficient funds are released for health, sanitation and primary education which are linked with the wellbeing on the citizen.

A municipality has to undertake several activities of public benefit, e.g. cleanliness and beautification of the town, maintenance and upkeep as well as construction of new public roads, street lighting, public hospitals and dispensaries, educational facilities for children and adults, alleviation of problems associated with growth in population and fulfilling rising needs of municipal services. The municipal administration undertakes these activities with prior

planning and according to the availability of funds for each activity.

The items of expenditure of Ichalkaranji Municipality may be stated as under:.

General Administration -

There are four sub-heads of expenditure under this items of expenditure, namely,

1. Employees salary and wages, dearness allowance, house rent allowance, etc.
2. Employee pensions,
3. Provident fund and gratuity,
4. Establishment expenses.

The following Table presents Ichalkaranji Municipality's expenditure on general administration during the period 1893 to 1951. ⁴⁴

Table - 3.11

**General administration expenditure
of Ichalkaranji municipality (1893 to 1951)**

Sr.No.	Years	Gen. Administration Expenditure (Rs.)
1.	1893	-----
2.	1895	1,335
3.	1901	2,005
4.	1911	3,036
5.	1921	4,116
6.	1931	1,024
7.	1941	8,772
8.	1945	17,547
9.	1951	66,747

From the above Table, it appears that the Municipality did not have to incur any general administration expenditure during 1893, its first year. Thereafter, excepting the years 1931 and 1951, the general administration expenditure have shown a rising trend. It may also be noted that in 1893, there were just 25 employees, while their number had risen onwards.

Public Security -

In addition to the routine work, a Municipal administration also has to shoulder the responsibility of providing public security, e.g. acquisition and maintenance of fire-fighting equipment and personnel, street lighting, protecting citizens from attacks of wild animals, mongrels and rabid dogs, etc.

The following Table presents Ichalkaranji Municipality's expenditure on public security during the period from 1895 to 1951.⁴⁵

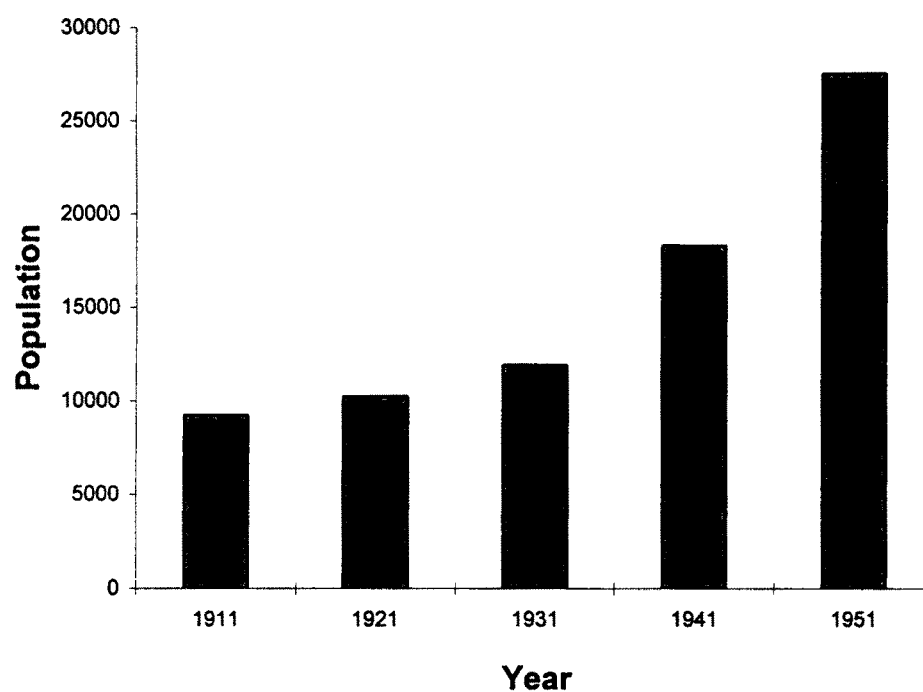
Table - 3.12

Public security expenditure of Ichalkaranji municipality (1895 to 1951)

Sr.No.	Years	Public Security Expenditure
1.	1895	300
2.	1901	---
3.	1911	39
4.	1921	1,236
5.	1931	1,900
6.	1941	2,658
7.	1945	4,525
8.	1951	12,925

From the above Table, it is clearly seen that the municipality's public security expendityre, with the exceptions of a few years, has gone on rising continuously. This is mainlybecause of the rising population of the town and the corresponding rise in the demand for public security services. In the year 1893, the population of Ichalkaranji town was merely 9,107, which rose to 18,573 in 1941 and 27,475 in 1951. ⁴⁶

Graph 3.2
Decadal Growth of Population in Ichalkaranji
town (1911 to 1951)



Public health and sanitation -

Maintaining cleanliness at public places as also providing sanitary living conditions to the population are the responsibilities of a town municipality .The expenditure that has to be incurred for the purpose includes: water supply, water testing laboratories ,water pumps and electric motors, prevention of water pollution etc. Together with the salaries and wages of the employees and workers in the concerned departments, purchase of the hearse, ambulances, medicines in the municipal hospitals and dispenseries, construction and upkeep of drainage (including underground drains), construction and upkeep of public latrines and urinals, inoculation and preventive measure for controlling the spread of epidemic and contagious diseases.

The following table shows the expenditure of Ichalkaranji municipality, on public health and sanitation during the period 1895 to 1951.⁴⁷

Table – 3.13

**Public health and sanitation expenditure of
Ichalkaranji municipality (1895 to 1951)**

Sr. No.	Year	Public Health and Sanitation Expenditure (Rs.)
1.	1895	1,250
2.	1901	-----
3.	1911	204
4.	1921	1,683
5.	1931	4,345
6.	1941	7,947
7.	1945	36,827
8.	1951	3,98,721

In the year 1930 Ichalkaranji municipality became the member of the local self government institute at Bombay. Electric power arrived in Ichalkaranji in 1936 and with it , street lighting was undertaken by the municipality. The very next year, i.e. in 1937-38, the municipality also attempted to complete the laying of road side gutters and storm water drains through out the town, but inadequate finance prevented the completion of this ambitious plan . ⁴⁸

Education -

Basic education is another important responsibility of a municipality. Education expenditure includes such items as grants paid to educational institutions. It also includes the expenditure on the municipality run primary and secondary Schools such as teacher's and administrative staffs salaries and allowances, construction of new school buildings, purchase of educational aids and materials etc.

Shrimant Babasaheb Ghorpade, the last chief of Ichalkaranji, had widely promoted Basic education Jahagir through the Jahagir's treasury. The Jahagir merged into Indian Union on independence and after 1951, responsibility for the basic education in Ichalkaranji town fell on the shoulders of the Municipality.

Ichalkaranji municipality's expenditure on education in the year 1958 was rupees 2000/-⁴⁹.

Miscellaneous -

Miscellaneous expenditure of a municipality includes election expenses, census expenses, court expenses, loan installments and interest payments on water supply schemes, expenses incurred for

celebrating national days like Independence Day, Republic day etc.

The following table shows Ichalkaranji Municipality's miscellaneous expenditure during the period for 1895 - 1951.⁵⁰

Table – 3.14

**Miscellaneous expenditure of Ichalkaranji
municipality (1893⁵ to 1951)**

Sr. No.	Year	Miscellaneous Expenditure (Rs.)
1.	1895	335
2.	1901	-
3.	1911	-
4.	1921	550
5.	1931	75
6.	1941	655
7.	1945	1,000
8.	1951	3,100

Aggregate municipal expenditure -

A scrutiny of Ichalkaranji Municipality's expenditure since its inception in 1893 shows that it has been growing with the passage of time. This is quite natural in keeping with the growth of population, expansion in the town's area provision of newer facilities and amenities to the citizens, as also problems related with the growth.

Table - 3.15

Growth of expenditure of Ichalkaranji municipality (1895 to 1951)⁵¹

Item/ Year	General Administration Rs.	Public Security Rs.	Health and Sanitation Rs.	Education Rs.	Miscellaneous Rs.	Total
1895	1,335 (100)	300(100)	1250(100)	-	335(100)	3220(100)
1901	2,005(150.18)	-	-	-	-	2005(62.20)
1911	3,036(227.41)	39 (13)	204(16.32)	-	-	3279(101.83)
1921	4,116(308.41)	1,236(412.00)	1,683(134.64)		550(164.17)	7585(235.55)
1931	1,024(76.70)	1,900(633.33)	4,345(347.60)	-	75(22.38)	7344(228.07)
1941	8,732(654.08)	2,568(856.00)	7,947(635.71)	-	655(195.52)	19902(618.07)
1945	1,7547 (1314. 38)	4,525 (1508. 83)	3,6827 (2946.16)	-	1000 (298.50)	59899 (1860.21)
1951	66,747 (4999. 77)	12955 (4318.33)	3,98,751 (31900.08)	2,000	3100 (925.37)	483553 (15010.96)

An expenditure incurred on the various heads by Municipality during the period from 1895 to 1951 is given in table no 3.15

1. The share of an expenditure on general administration was rupees 1335/-, which was 41.45% of the total expenditure incurred on various heads.
2. Only 9.31% expenditure was allotted for public security in the year 1895.
3. The share of public health Sanitation was 38.81% of the total expenditure in 1895.
4. 10.40% of the total expenditure was spent on Miscellaneous during the year 1895.
5. In 1901 the Municipality had incurred rupees. 2005/- on general administration. Municipality had not incurred any amount on other heads of expenditures.
6. The expenditure incurred on the general administration rose from rupees 3036 in 1911(227.41% of the year 1895) to rupees, 4116/- (308.41 % of the year 1895) in 1921.
7. The amount of expenditure incurred on public security increased from rupees. 39 in 1911 to rupees 1236 in 1921.
8. Similarly, an allotment to the public health and Sanitation has also rose from Rs. 204/- in 1911 to Rs.1683 in 1921.

9. But, an expenditure incurred on miscellaneous declined from rupees 550/- in 1921 to rupees 75/- only in 1931.
10. From 1931 to 1951 there was significant increasing trend in expenditure on various items. The expenditure incurred on general administration rose from rupees 1,024/- in 1931 to rupees. 66,747/- in 1951.

The expenditure spent on public security was also increased from rupees 1,236/- in 1921 to rupees. 12,955/- in 1951.

As compared with the other heads of expenditure there was tremendous increase in growth rate of expenditure of public Health and Sanitation. The expenditure rose from rupees. 1,683/- in 1921 to rupees. 3,98,751/- in 1951, which was 31,900.00 % of the year 1895.

By the year 1951 rupees 2,000 was incurred on education.

The Growth of expenditure in regards miscellaneous was also steadily increasing from 1931 to 1951.

From the above table it is clear that the municipality had incurred rupees 1,335 for general administration in the year 1895. As compared with the other heads of expenditure. The total expenditure

incurred by the municipality was rupees 3,220/- in the year 1895. Near about 42% of the total expenditure was incurred on general administration. 38.81% of the total expenditure was incurred on public Health and sanitation. Remaining i.e. near about only 19% expenditure was allocated to public security and Miscellaneous.

By 1901 rupees 2,005 (150.18% of 1895) were spent on general administration which was 100%. Of the total expenditure incurred during that year.

The expenditure incurred on general administration rose from rupees 3,036(227.41% of 1895) to rupees 4,116/- in 1921. But in the year 1931 the expenditure incurred on general administration was declined to rupees 1,024/- which was only 76.70% of the year 1895.

The above table also indicates that the total expenditure incurred on various heads from 1895 to 1951. This table shows that in the year 1895 the total expenditure incurred on various items was only rupees 3,220/- In the next year i.e., in the year 1901 the expenditure declined by rupees 1,215, thus bringing the total to rupees 2,005/-. But by the year 1911 the total expenditure was rupees 3,279(101.83% of the year 1845). The total expenditure incurred on various heads was rupees 7,585/- and rupees 7,344/- in the year 1921

and 1931 respectively. But in the year 1941 there was remarkable increase in the total expenditure, which rose from rupees 7,344/- in 1931 and rupees 19,902/- (618.07% of the year 1895) During the year 1945 the total amount spent on various heads was rupees 59,899/- (1860.21% of the year 1895). Lastly in year 1951, the amount of expenditure reached up to rupees 4,83,553/- (15010.96% of 1895).

Thus the total expenditure on various heads increased from rupees 3,220/- in 1895 to rupees 4,83,553/- which was 150.17 times of the year 1895.

From the above data it is observed that the municipality had incurred lot of amount on, public health and sanitation followed by general administration.

Summary-

The above analysis of the income and expenditure of Ichalkaranji municipality shows that both these have registered continuous growth over the years. As the town went on growing year after year municipality's both income and expenditure also grew with it. Corresponding to the growth of the town in relation to its population and area, the municipality was called upon to provide increasing services. Consequently, the

municipality had to undertake several development works, provide additional schools and hospitals, public roads and recreation places, and such other municipal facilities and amenities. The finances needed for the purpose had to be raised by tapping several income sources.

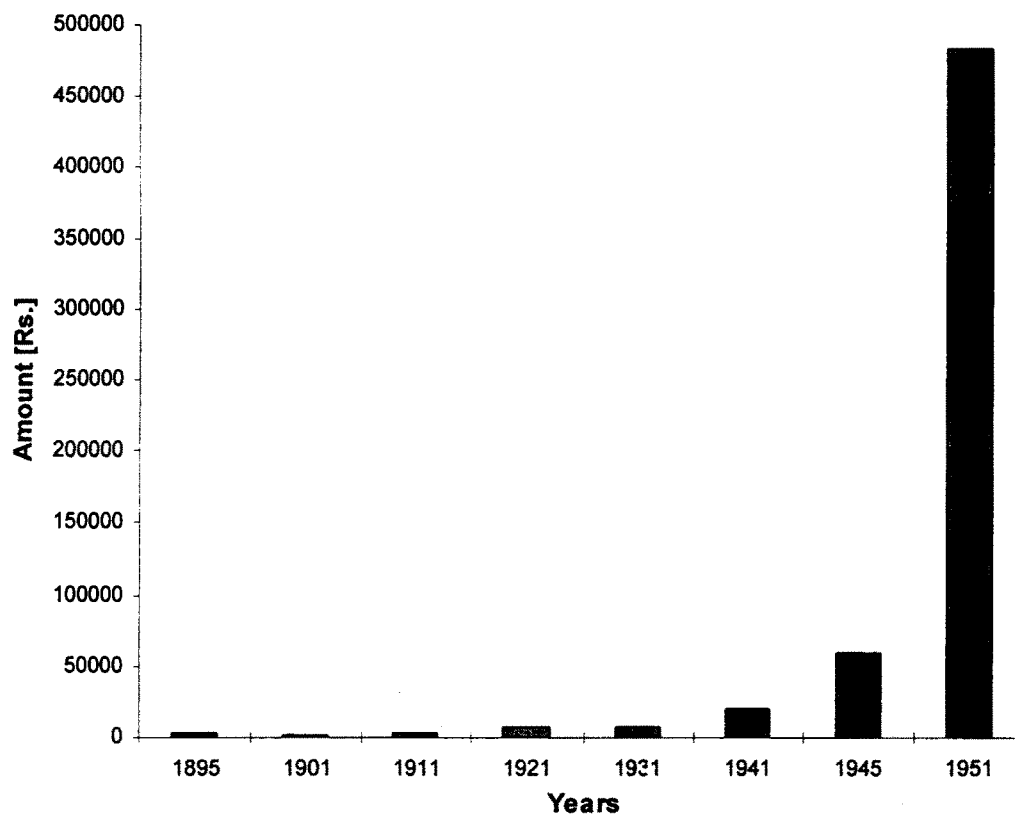
In short, Ichalkaranji Municipality has implemented several projects for the town's development and for public health. Particularly, its expenditure is substantial as regards public health and education.

Table No - 3.16

Table showing the expenditure percentage of health and sanitation and establishment (general administration) out of total expenditure during the year 1895 to 1951 based on table no 3.15:

Sr. No.	Year	% of Health & Sanitation	% of Establishment (General Administration)
1	1895	38.80	42.002
2	1901	-	100.00
3	1911	6.22	92.58
4	1921	22.18	54.26
5	1931	5.92	13.94
6	1941	39.93	43.87
7	1945	61.48	29.29
8	1951	82.46	13.80

Graph No. 3.3
Annual Expenditure of Ichalkaranji Municipality
during the year 1895 to 1951



(IV) HEALTH AND SANITATION:

Public Health is given an important place in municipal administration. Public health is directly concerned with the life and death of the population. Hence, provision of public health facilities is considered the primary function of the local autonomous bodies. Protection of public health and the preventive measures associated with it, therefore, became essential in municipal administration. Under the Bombay Municipal Act of 1925, health and Sanitation Department of a town municipality may take up the following programmes:

1. To monitor / control the spread of epidemics,
2. To monitor / control various diseases and offer medical treatment,
3. To collect and dispose off garbage and waste,
4. To dispose off sewage,
5. To provide and maintain mutton and fish markets,
6. To provide and maintain cremation grounds, cemeteries and graveyards,

In view of the above, Ichalkaranji Municipality has provided various public health facilities to the citizens:

Public health-

During the period from 1893 to 1951, Ichalkaranji Municipality has made concrete efforts to ensure public health and to meet epidemics and contagious diseases.

Plague-

During the period intervening 1898 and 1951, with a gap of few years, plague epidemic spread in the town regularly. The municipality initiated several measures to control the epidemics and eradicate the disease. In the year 1898, a major plague epidemic hit the town and there was considerable loss of life. Inoculation was not very wide spread then. Isolation of health people in the huts built outside the town was the only know preventive measure against the epidemic. ⁵²

According to the records of the Ichalkaranji Municipality, in the quarter prior to 13/02/1898, plague had visited the town. In the managing committee meeting, certain sum was proposed to be transferred to

the Health Department. The resolution was passed unanimously. ⁵³

The plague epidemic again reared its head in the area in the year 1931. In Ichalkaranji town itself, 6,367 people were infected, of which 342 died. ⁵⁴

Ichalkaranji Municipality undertook following measures to counter the menace of plague and to eventually eradicate it :

Appointment of health officer-

As the epidemic began to spread in the year 1947, the Municipality created a separate Plague Hospital and also appointed a separate and efficient medical officer to head it. ⁵⁵ He was provided adequate number of medical staff together with the required medicines. Plague is mostly spread through mice, hence the Municipality arranged for free supply of adequate quantities of rodenticides and mouse-traps.

Lice on the mice is yet another agent that spreads Plague. Hence, for fumigating residential houses, the Municipality also started spraying DDT powder with hand-operated back-pack pumps. Anti-plague inoculation had begun then. The municipality undertook an intense inoculation campaign, together with free supply of rodenticides and mouse-traps, to

eradicate the plague from the town. The money required for the purpose was allocated in the municipal budget. ⁵⁶

In the year 1947, separate municipal staff was working on the anti-plague campaign and an amount of Rs.5,000 was allocated for their expenditure. ⁵⁷

A substantial amount was spent by the Municipality on plague eradication effort, straining its funds. When the stocks of DDT powder exhausted, the Municipality requested Kolhapur State's Chief Administrator to partly subsidise further purchases of the chemical. ⁵⁸

Cholera -

Cholera epidemics were yet another devastating public health menace that Ichalkaranji Municipality had to encounter regularly.

In the year 1925, Ichalkaranji Municipality had set up diesel oil engines and pump sets on the river Panchaganga for the supply of drinking water to the town. This was a preventive measure in anticipation of an impending cholera epidemic. In the year 1943, thirty-four persons had contacted cholera, of which fourteen had died. ⁵⁹

Along with preventive measures, the Municipality also undertook extensive cleanliness drives in the town. Refuse bins in public places were cleaned and DDT powder sprayed. A market inspector was appointed to supervise the cleanliness of the markets, who paid particular attention to mutton and fish markets. The clean drinking water scheme implemented eventually further helped to control cholera epidemic .

Other contagious diseases (Small-pox and Chicken-pox)-

In those days, the two other killer diseases were small-pox and chicken-pox. In the months of January to March of the year 1940, a small-pox epidemic had created a havoc in the town. Out of the three hundred and twenty two persons infected, twenty-seven died. ⁶⁰

The same measures that were initiated against other epidemics were initiated against this epidemic also. An inoculation drive was launched in the town on 14 September, 1940. The Civil Surgeon of Kolhapur Darbar reimbursed to the Municipality the expenditure of rupees 42, 5 annas, 2 pies incurred for the purpose. ⁶¹

Later on, the Municipality appointed separate staff for small-pox inoculation as a preventive measure against small-pox epidemic. ⁶²

Thus, it is seen that the Municipality had undertaken inoculation programme for containing the future outbreaks of small-pox in the town. This was a well-planned preventive measure.

Medical facilities -

Prior to 1951, first the Jahagir and then the State Government used to run a hospital in Ichalkaranji. Ichalkaranji Municipality took over the hospital along with all its buildings, equipment and responsibilities. Thus, the right to appoint the medical officers and the staff also came to the Municipality. ⁶³

The Municipality, under the guidance of the District Leprosy Prevention Committee, had also started a separate Leprosy Section in the year 1928 as a part of its leprosy eradication effort. For removing wrong notions in people's minds, it was propagated that leprosy is not a hereditary disease but can be cured with proper medication. ⁶⁴

In this way Ichalkaranji Municipality had incurred requisite expenditure on public health for ensuring citizens' good health. It was also seen that in the initial years, the public health expenditure was less, but then it has gone increasing gradually.

Sanitation and cleanliness -

The records reveal that Ichalkaranji Municipality had undertaken several measures for ensuring sanitation and cleanliness of the town. There was, it seems, a practice of using bullock-carts to collect, and to carry garbage to the dumping area. In the year 1945 seven bullock carts were used for this purpose.

Along with garbage disposal, it is also very necessary to properly dispose off sewage. In the year 1948, three double-bull carts and two single-bull carts used to carry the town's sewage to a disposal dump.

For long time, the Municipality used garbage and sewage for preparing composite manure having commercial value. The records show that on 16/10/1949, one Mr. Gade, a Composite Development Officer, visited Ichalkaranji and erected a 2750 tone capacity composite plant using the town's garbage and sewage. ⁶⁵

Prior to 1931, roadside gutters and drainage were non-existent in the town. The municipal budget for the year 1931-32 for the first time allocated a sum of rupees 2,745/- for laying the gutters. A drainage scheme was implemented in the year 1941 at the cost of rupees 471, 3 annas, 1 pie. ⁶⁶

Regular cleaning of gutters is equally important as laying the gutters. Uncleaned gutters are the

breeding grounds for disease causing germs that threaten public health. The Municipality had appointed cleaning workers. Also the budget for the year 1941 shows a provision of rupees 1000/- for the purpose. ⁶⁷

In its meeting held on 13/07/1946, the General Committee passed a resolution (bearing no.23) making it compulsory for the owners of the houses valued above rupees 1500/- to build latrines within their premises. The Municipality was empowered to enforce this directive in Section 48(1) of the Bombay Municipal Act. ⁶⁸

The Municipality had also constructed public urinals at several places. The early information in this behalf is not available, but the budget for the year 1952, shows an allocation of rupees 10,000 for providing public urinals. In the latter years, the number of such urinals went on increasing. The Municipality also provided for the regular cleaning of these urinals through its sanitary workers.

The information about the expenditure incurred on sanitation during the period 1893 to 1941 is not available. But the sanitation expenditure in the year 1942-43 and 1951-52 was rupees 7,261/- and rupees 3,98,721/- respectively.

Thus, the records reveal that Ichalkaranji Municipality has spent substantial amount on the

town's public health and sanitation, which, in turn, has enabled it contain the spread of contagious diseases and epidemics.

(V) CONCLUSION :

When the town Municipality was established in the year 1893, there were no good roads in Ichalkaranji, nor were there gutters and drainage nor was there urban administration. Shrimant Narayan Babasaheb Ghorpade was aware of importance of municipal administration for the capital town of his jahagir. In the second year of his taking over the regions of the jahagir, he established a Municipality for Ichalkaranji town on 1st September 1893. The Municipality completed its fifty years of useful existence in 1943.

It is also seen that the income of the Municipality has gone on increasing year after year. An ideal example is of the water cess income. In the year 1944, the Municipality earned an income of rupees 3,327/- from water cess, it rose to rupees 11,787/- in 1951. Likewise, the incomes from octroi duty, rents, other taxes have also increased. Government grants, contribution and subsidies have also become an important income source for the Municipality.

Along with the rise in the income, the Municipality has also increased its expenditure on justifiable and publicly beneficial causes. It has focused its attention particularly on the public health and sanitation as also on education for providing better facilities in this behalf to the citizens.

Ichalkaranji Municipality secured a balanced growth of the town through judicious administration of municipal services. Consequently, the original cluster of hamlets and settlements is now known as the "Manchester of Maharashtra".

A town municipality is a keen to a public chariot. Although the responsibility for navigating it is of the municipal president and municipal councillors ought to be public-spirited service-oriented individuals and should take active interest in the affairs of the Municipality, on the other, municipal officers and employees should also be like-minded.

Rise in population and expansion of area over a time are indicative of growing town. Likewise, keeping the town well-organized, clean and beautiful is an integral part of a town Municipality's functioning. Ichalkaranji Municipality has performed commendably well in this behalf. Hence, it is considered as one of the ideal town Municipalities in Maharashtra State.

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CHAPTER - IV

***DEVELOPMENT OF EDUCATION
IN ICHALKARANJI JAHAGIR***

CHAPTER - IV

DEVELOPMENT OF EDUCATION IN **ICHALKARANJI JAHAGIR :**

(I) INTRODUCTION:

Before Babasaheb's rule there were very few schools in Ichalkaranji. The provision of English medium education was only upto Vth Standard. In such critical position Babasaheb played a vital role in the field of education, that should be worth considering.

Many of the today's existing schools have been established in the period of Babasaheb Ghorpade i.e. from 1892 to 1943. Venkatrao Vidyamandir the school no.1 at Zenda Chouk was started from 14 June 1855, before Babasaheb's period when the population of Ichalkaranji was nearly 3,000. ¹

The first school for girls began at Ichalkaranji on 5th March 1872. The importance of women education was recognised and the gates of education for women were opened. The first school for girls was started in memory of Anubai Ghorpade, the daughter of Peshwa Balaji Vishwanath and wife of Venkatrao Ghorpade. The name of School was Anubai Kannya Vidyamandir.

There were only thirty-five girl and one teacher available when this school was established. ²

Shrimant Govindrao Abasaheb, a father of Babasaheb Ghorpade , established a school on 19 March 1874. He provided two rooms to this school in the beginning. This school had only thirty students, when it was started. ³

Vidyamandir, the school no.3 was established on 5 December 1885. In the beginning, this School was only for backward students having two rooms, fifteen students and one teacher. From 1920 students of all castes and religions were adimitted in this school. This school was recognised afterwards as the complete Primary school. ⁴

(II) DEVELOPMENT OF EDUCATION UNDER NARAYANRAO BABASAHEB GHORPADE :

Babasaheb Ghorpade gave top proprity to educational reforms in Ichalkaranji Jahagir. After his accession, he introduced many reforms in the field of education. He divided the department of education under the heads like primary education, secondary education, Higher education, Women's education, teacher's training, Trade education and physical education. He made all departments very efficient. ⁵

Primary education -

Babasaheb Ghorpade founded a primary school named Vidyamandir, the school no.4 at Ichalkaranji in the year 1935. ⁶

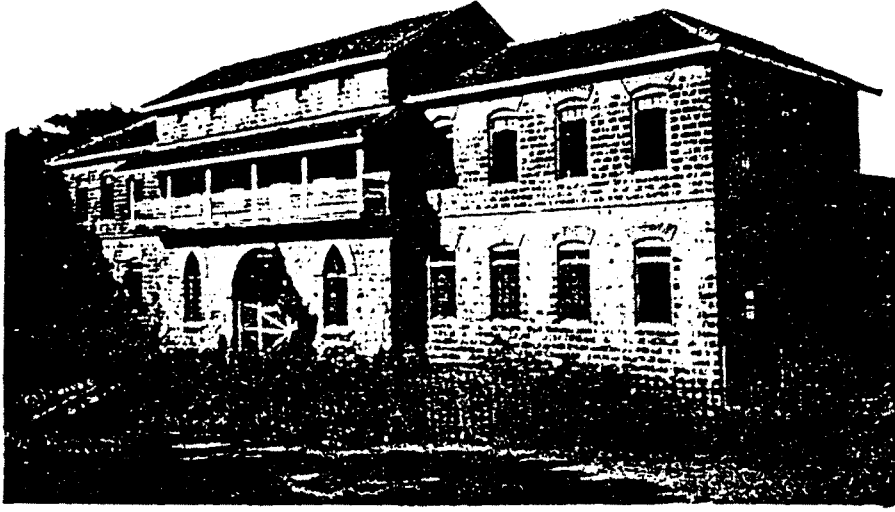
“Primary Education upto fourth standard in the Jahagir , was made free. Schools were opened in almost all the villages in the Jahagir. The total number of the Primary Schools was forty eight. Only for twenty to twenty five students, the primary schools were opened. There were two schools in Ichalkaranji. Ajara also had full-fledged, primary school . Education at Seventh standard, was started at Ichalkaranji. Fifth standard was opened at schools in Arag and Lat in the year 1942.” ⁷

Teacher's training -

Babasaheb's policy from the beginning was to increase the number of trained teachers. He therefore sent at least two or three teachers for training every year. ⁸

Sending the teachers for training was an expensive affair in those days. It was also difficult to get admission. Earlier, teachers, who desirous of going for

Govindrao Highschool, Ichalkaranji



(गोविंदराव हायस्कूल, इचलकरंजी)

training were supplied with loans. But in 1936 Babasaheb Ghorpade wrote off the loans given to teachers. Then onwards it was arranged that training expenditure was incurred through the state coffers.

Other teachers were also benefitted by the weekly discussion, ideal lessons and training of teaching units. Thus, their teaching methods were also elevated qualitatively.⁹

The two letters by the Principal of Training College for Men, Poona to the Chief of Ichalkaranji read as follows :-

“It is expected that you will please submit your recommendation for the teachers, whom you propose to allow to join our training College.”¹⁰

In his letter, dated 10 July 1913, the Principal of the Training College, says, “Please let me know how many trained men you would require to sent out from this college for your Jahagir during each or next two years.”¹¹

Secondary education -

Babasaheb was deeply interested in Secondary Education, from the begining of his tenure. In 1898, he founded Govindrao English School at Ichalkaranji.

He built up a spacious building for the highschool. This English school was only upto fifth standard.

The population of the city of Ichalkaranji started growing very fast because of Babasaheb's generous and progressive policies. Trade and commerce developed. And hence a fullfledged highschool became a 'must'. Consequently in 1928 "Govindrao English School" was changed to Govindrao High School. The high school was recognized by Bombay University. Babasaheb Ghorpade appoited graduate teachers in the high school. He gave them handsome salaries. He helped the students by providing them with a very nice library. ¹²

In the beginning Mr. Cholkar, B.A., B.T., was appointed headmaster of the school. In the following fourteen years, the school made good progress under the indefatigable guidance of Mr. Cholkar.

Principal Mate, Prin. Mahajani, Dr. Raghunathrao Paranjape, Prin.Wakil, ex-educational inspector of Dharwad, N.C.Kelkar, Dr.D.K.Karve were the prominent persons, who visited the School and praised its work. Though the highschool was in the rural area, it had ranked itself among the qualitative highschools in Maharashtra. It was all due to Babasaheb's liberal policy. ¹³

Shri. Venkatrao A.V. High School was started at Ajara by Babasaheb. It was started on 6 April, 1932, as a memorial of late Mr. Venkatrao Raosaheb. Separate and spacious building for the High School was provided. In that highschool, English was taught from first to fourth standard. In 1942 the number of the students was seventy nine. Out of the four teachers, one was an Arts graduate and the other was having Secondary Training Certificate. ¹⁴

Higher Education -

Babasaheb Ghorpade helped the students from his Jahagir to get higher education. He gave large sums of money as donations to the Colleges in the vicinity as well as to the college of distant places. He saw to it that majority of the students, desirous of taking higher education, were given free education. He wanted that students from his Jahagir should go abroad to take higher education and for that he founded, "Ichalkaranji Education Endowment Fund", to help desirous candidates. ¹⁵

Babasaheb Ghorpade made higher education available to the middle class students as well as the down trodden class. The then, students were fortunate

enough to avail such an opportunity only because of Babasaheb's benevolent attitude. ¹⁶

Babasaheb offered eight scholarships to the students of Willingdon College, Sangli out of which four were meant for students from Brahmin community and the other four were for the students from non-brahmin community. The Scholarships given were not in proportion with the strength of the brahmin caste and the non brahmin castes. Student coming from Brahmin caste, which was about 3 to 5% of the total population were given 50% scholarship, while the students from the remaining non-Brahmin castes constituting about 95 to 97% of the total population were given remaining 50% scholarship. The favouratism of Narayanrao Babasaheb, the Jahagirdar was apparent.

Babasaheb Ghorapde offered four scholarships each in Furgussion College and S.P.College, Poona. Likewise, he offered fifteen rupees per month as a scholarship for a student in Karnataka College at Dharwad. Babasaheb was the first doner to offer a handsome amount of rupees 50,000/- for the foundation of the Willingdon College near Sangli. ¹⁷

Twenty five rupees per month, were offered to the ambitious students going for study in Benaras Hindu University. In the same manner, twenty five rupees per

month were offered to the students going for study of subjects like Industrial Chemistry, Mining, Metallurgy and Auraveda. He donated rupees 2,000/- to Bhandarkar Research Institute at Poona. If a student from Ichalkaranji State intended to take advanced studies in Sanskrit, he was to be given it freely, through that donation in the institute.

As Babasaheb donated rupees 5,100/- to orphan students' hostel Poona, free accomodation facility was provided there to a student from Ichalkaranji Jahagir. He offered "Ichalkaranji Sadwartan (Good conduct) Prize." Similarly, he offered different prizes like, 'Ichalkaranji Science' and 'Hastvyawasya (Hand Industry) Prize'. In addition to this, he gave rupees 5,425/- for the worship offering and light facility of Loard Rama, the archer.

He donated rupees 9,000/- t "Ranade Industrial and Economic Research Institute." A Scholarship of rupees 25/- per month given to a student recommended by Ichalkaranjkar through the interest of the donation.

Babasaheb was keenly interested in building School-buildings in the Jahagir. A total of rupees 1,11,447/- was spent for the construction and development of school buildings. The sums of money spent on various buildings in Ichalkaranji and Ajara would be clear from the following table 4.1.

Table - 4.1

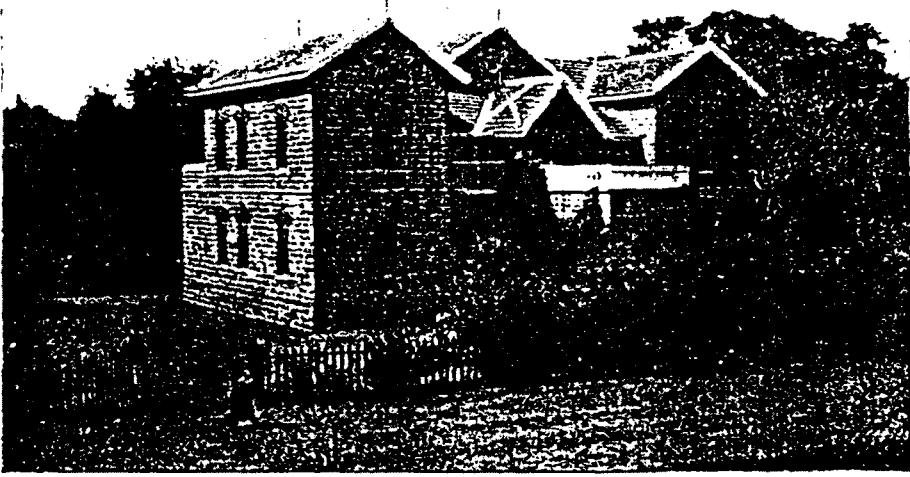
Expenditure allotted construction of school buildings :

Sr. No.	Name of the School Building	Taluka	Expenditure (Rs.)
1.	Govindrao Highschool extension	Ichalkaranji	42,000
2.	Smt. Anubai Girls Highschool extension.	"	7,367
3.	Adi Venkatrao Highschool extension.	"	16,656
4.	School No.2 extension	"	4,569
5.	School No.3 extension	"	5,518
6.	Shirdhon School	"	4,372
7.	Rangoli School	"	3,840
8.	Arag School	"	7,513
9.	Manerajuri School	"	11,080
10.	Venkatrao English School	Ajara	8,532
	Total Rs.		1,11,447

18

Shrimant Babasaheb offered loan scholarships to the bright and brilliant students going abroad. He reserved a special fund for that. Sixty -two students took the benefit of this facility for doing their I.C.S. and other such type of education abroad. Upto 1942,

Smt. Gangamai Mahilalaya, Ichalkaranji.



(श्री. स. सौ. गंगामाई महिलालय, इचलकरंजी)

the sum of Rs. 2,38,765/- was distributed through this scheme, on refund basis. ¹⁹

Women's education –

Babasaheb was equally concerned about women's education. His thoughts about "women's education" were traditional and a bit orthodox. He believed that women should become literate. They should have some knowledge of English, necessary for practical purpose. Babasaheb thought that women should be educated to become ideal wives and mothers and that they should stop their education after their marriages. Subjects like Drawing, Embroidery, Tailoring and Cutting, Signing and Culinary arts were included in Women's Education.²⁰

Shrimati Anubai girls school gave education upto seventh standard. Babasaheb to some extent encouraged girls in taking English education. There were sixteen and fifty girls taking English education in A.V. Highschool, Ajara and Govindrao Highschool, Ichalkaranji respectively. Thirteen girls had passed their matriculation upto 1942, from these highschools. Babasaheb thus, helped for the spread of girls education.

“He had offered five different scholarships, specially for girls in places like, Training College, Hingane, Mahila Pathashala and a College at Erandawana. This helped for growth of girls education.”²¹

A special club and library was founded at Ichalkaranji only for women. In this way , Shrimant Babasaheb Ghorpade promoted education and socialization of women in Ichalkaranji Jahagir.

Physical education -

Babasaheb believed that in addition to academic education, physical education and sports were important in the development of personality. He therefore appointed physical director in comparatively big schools to train the students for taking physical exercises. “Kho-Kho” and “Hu-Tu-Tu” teams (Kabbaddi) of Ichalkaranji Jahagir in the sports were famous all over. Youths were trained in “Government - Talims” at Ajara and Ichalkaranji in wrestling. Babasaheb Ghorpade patronized many local talims and clubs like, Shivaji Mandal. At the time of “Navaratra”, Wrestling bouts were organized and the triumphant wrestlers were awarded prizes.”²²

Babasaheb himself took regular physical exercises and lived a happy and long life only because of his physical fitness. He appointed physical teachers in highschool to train students in Indian and Foreign games.²³

Boarding and hostel facilities -

Chhatrapati Shahu had made Kolhapur 'the motherboarding houses' in the early years of the twentieth century. Narayanrao Babasaheb initiated Shahu, though a bit late, in 1929 when he started a boarding hostel with the name "Shri Venkatrao Vasatigraha". A very spacious and airy building was built up for this boarding. For the poor boys from the Jahagir, facility was being made available in the school itself under the supervision of the teachers. It was called "Chhatraniketan". Poor boys were benefitted from five such "Chhatraniketans" in the Jahagir.²⁴

All these facilities made it possible for some boys from ordinary families to take their education.

Scholarship scheme -

Babasaheb donated rupees 2,50,000/- to different educational institutions in Maharashtra. He always had public welfare at his heart while offering donations. He donated rupees 50,000/- to Deccan Education Society's Willingdon College at Sangli. One of the hostels of Willingdon College at Sangli, was called "Ichalkaranji Vibhag." Babasaheb helped Prof.D.K.Karve by donating him rupees 15,400/- for his girl schools established at various places. ²⁵

Encouragement given to education of the backward communities:

The Muhammadans, the Virshaiva, Chambhars, Dhors and Mahars were backward in education. In order to spread education Babasaheb Ghorpade gave financial assistance to Muhammadans. ²⁶

Similarly, primary education was made free to Chambhar Dhor castes among the Virshaiva Sect, as well as the Mahars. ²⁷

They were also given freeships and scholarships for the higher studies and occupational education. ²⁸

Chhatraniketans, for the students in the Mahar caste were started by Babasaheb Ghorpade." ²⁹

Ichalkaranji Education Endowment Fund -

Babasaheb registered a trust of rupees 75,000/- under the name of 'Ichalkaranji Education Endowment Fund', for assisting the students going abroad for higher education. Dr. Sir R.P. Paranjape and Prin. J.R. Gharpure were the other trustees. Needy students were offered educational loans with minimum rate of interest. Both male and female students could avail of this facility.

Mr. Franks has remarked regarding this facility in his book, 'The Story of Ichalkaranji' as under :-

"In addition to the local facilities for education, the Chief saheb had created from out of his own personal saving a trust, which is known as the "Ichalkaranji Education Endowment Fund, which is especially designed to help poor deserving students to carry on higher studies locally as well as in foreign countries in different disciplines studies such as, military, Education, Industrial and Technical." ³⁰

Upto the year 1942 Banasaheb gave loan advances of rupees 2,44,754/- to the students. Out of this a sum of Rs. 1,52,481 was returned, the amount of rupees 91,682 remained to be repaid by the students. In all 62 students took benefits of this scheme. ³¹

The facility was also made available for the students taking education in following Indian Education Institutions.

1. The Mining School, Dhanbad, Bihar
2. Tata Research Institute, Benglore
3. Technological Department of the Bombay University, Bombay.
4. Harcourt Buttler Technical Institute, Kanpur.
5. The Royal Military Academy, Deharadun.
6. Forset Research Institute, Deharadun.
7. Royal Indian Marine Training Ship S.S. Dufferin, Bombay.
8. Imperial Agricultural Institute, Delhi.
9. Flying Schools, for Aeronautic courses.
10. Kala Bhavan, Baroda.
11. Government Training School, Calcutta.
12. All India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health, Calcutta.
13. The School of Tropical Medicine, Calcutta. ³²

There is on record information about sixty-two students, who recovered loan from this fund. The list of the students is given in the appendix to the thesis. The students were given the loans to get degree in arts, science, law, medicine and also to prepare for the Indian Civil Service examinations. Another significant

matter regarding these students needs to be mentioned almost all these sixty-two students were Brahmin by caste. These loans made it possible for the students to pursue their education in foreign countries in different disciplines.³³

Patron of Music -

Babasaheb was a lover of music. He not only helped "Gandharava Mahavidyalaya", but established a music school of his own at home. Babasaheb was the patron behind the great classical singer, Pandit Balkrishna Buva through out of his life. Pandit Balkrishna Buva had a chain of his great classical singer disciples like Pandit Vishnu Digambar Paluskar, Pandit Gundubuva Ingale, Pandit Anant Manohar.

Pandit Balkrishnubuva came to Ichalkaranji for permanent stay and under the patronage of Babasaheb and coached great classical singers like Annabuva, Mirashibuva, Dattopant Kale.

Mirashibuva and Bhatbuva were originally clerks, but they rose and became classical singers on the strength of their will and practice, along with the merit of their voice. Babasaheb regarded fine arts as equally important with other subjects. He had deep faith in such arts and always encouraged them.³⁴

By patronizing great classical singers of high order like Pandit Balkrishnabuva, Babasaheb encouraged Indian classical music. His court turned into a music school of top order. In the beginning of his tenure great singers like, Ravajibuva Gogate and his sons Keshavbuva and Narayanbuva Gogate, Phaltankar were in his service, Babasaheb had formed very good relations with the Gokhale family at Miraj. Babasaheb got published the historic document in Gokhale family's possession under the name "Gokhale Gharaneki Gayki" in Hindi. ³⁵

Thus, Babasaheb made a very significant contribution to the development of Indian classical music. Through Pandit Balkrishnabuva, great classical singers like, Pandit Vishnu Digambar, Gundubuva Ingale, Prof. Anant Manohar, became associated with Babasaheb. Babasaheb had great love for Pandit Paluskar and all his disciples, the Chief among them was Vinayakbuva. Pandit Gundubuva Ingle's second son, Keshavarao had become his court singer. ³⁶

Granthottejak fund: encouragement to historians -

Babasaheb Ghorpade had deep interest in creative writing and Historical research. "He reserved a fund of rupees twenty thousand for Ichalkaranji Granthottejak

Fund.” Through the interest of the fund he could get approximately rupees 1,000/- per year, which were utilized for giving donations to different writers. For example, he helped famous historian V.K. Rajwade for his “Nirukta”. The prominent historians Ganesh Hari Khare and S. N. Chaphekar were also given donations for their books. Mr. V. K. Bhawe was donated for publishing his “Peshvekalin Maharashtra” a pioneering work on the social history of Maharashtra in the eighteenth century. Dr. S. V. Ketkar was offered donation for publishing his monumental “Dnyankosha”. Mr. S.R. Wasudeo and Mr. Bendre were awarded the donation of seven thousand rupees for their historical research. Prior to the establishment of this fund Babasaheb had helped many creative writers in either cash or kind in his prolonged tenure.” ³⁷

The study of Vedas-

With the introduction of modern education Babasaheb was not totally disillusioned with the old and traditional study of the Vedas. Babasaheb was orthodox-minded and deeply religious by nature. He started the study and teaching of Vedas in his principality. His Vaidic Schools became famous all over Maharashtra. He took the benefit of the stalwarts

like Pandit Balshastri Telang, Haribhau Padagaonkar and Murgudkar Shastri by inviting them to teach Vedas in his schools. Sadashivashastri Bhide, one of the experts in Vedas was one of the students of this school.

“People like Vedmurti Dinkar Bhat Tamhankar, Balambhat Mangaonkar and Mr. Padhye gained prominence in India as the Ved experts. The Brahmin community at Banaras honoured Sakharam Maheshwarbhat Padhye and Ranganathbhat Altekar by offering to them, the honorific title of Rigaveda Ratna. Both these scholars had received encouragement from Babasaheb. But for Babasaheb the study of Vedas could not have been undertaken in his principality.”³⁸

Considering the orthodoxy of Babasaheb Ghorpade, the Vaidic schools were, most probably, opened only to Brahmin students. There is no evidence to prove that he had learnt a lesson from the famous Vedokta controversy in Kolhapur state (1902) and opened the learning of Vedas to all Varnas.

Babasaheb moreover had an eye for the education of drawing, carpentry and painting. Vocational education of all this type was imparted at Govindrao Highschool, Ichalkaranji.

The “tailoring and cutting college”, founded in the year 1929 turned out to be a great success in Ichalkaranji principality.

N.D. Tamhankar, his first biographer, has rightly called him "a born artist and educationist".³⁹ His outlook towards education was comprehensive covering not only arts and science but also sports and physical education. He was aware of the fact that deserving students coming from poor families do need encouragement. By providing hostels, endowment funds and scholarships, he helped promising students who served the country in different fields in their life.

(II) DEVELOPMENT OF EDUCATION UNDER ICHALKARANJI MUNICIPALITY :

Ichalkaranji Municipal Education Mandal was established according to act of 1884 and named, "Municipal School Board". The responsibility of completing education to the city children was handed over to the municipality.

The municipality grants the budget to the municipal education department every year as the Mandal presents its approximate budget to the municipality.

There were only twelve schools in Ichalkaranji, when Primary Education was transferred to municipality. Due to the industrial development in Ichalkaranji a huge number of workers were attracted

to settle in Ichalakaranji and educational facility became a necessity.⁴⁰

The other important factor in education was the teachers' training. In the Jahagir period the teachers were trained, similarly Municipal Education Mandal also stressed upon the teachers' training and tried to train many teachers.⁴¹

Ichalkaranji Municipality took great efforts to make all round progress of the students. The Municipality arranged inter-school competitions in different games like Kho-kho, Kabaddi, Langadi etc. The players were encouraged by rewarding them gifts. Municipality spent great amount for purchasing sport equipment.⁴²

(III) CONCLUSION :

Shrimant Babasaheb Ghorpade was highly educated who could recognize the importance of education. He announced free education up to standard 4th in his period for acquiring dynamic growth of education. He started primary schools in every village and provided great opportunity to the people. He was of the opinion that the teacher must be well educated and trained. So he provided opportunity to the teachers to be well educated and trained. In the beginning,

loans were provided for such training. But after 1938 he managed to provide all provisions to the teacher from Jahagir for the training. About two or three teachers were trained every year.⁴³

As Narayanrao Babasaheb Ghorpade tried his best for primary education, he also tried a lot for secondary education. He paid proper attention towards secondary education. He started Govindrao English School in 1898. This School provided English medium education up to 5th standard. This School was converted into Govindrao High-school in 1928. In the beginning G. R. Cholakar worked as the headmaster of this high-school, who passed B.A., B.T. Babasaheb appointed graduate teachers in this high-school who received good salary. Special library was also provided for the students.⁴⁴

The students were unable to take their higher education up to the beginning of the College of Swami Vivekanand Shikshan Sanstha in Ichalkaranji. But Babasaheb Ghorpade awarded the scholarships to the students who wished to take higher education from universities at Banaras and Bombay.⁴⁵

Ichalkaranji Municipal Education Mandal also contributed a lot to the field of education.

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CHAPTER - V

***TEXTILE (COTTON) INDUSTRY,
CO-OPERATIVE AND LABOUR
MOVEMENT IN ICHALKARANJI***

CHAPTER - V

TEXTILE (COTTON) INDUSTRY, CO-OPERATIVE AND LABOUR MOVEMENTS IN ICHALKARANJI

(I) INTRODUCTION:

Agriculture was the major occupation of the people in the Ichalkaranji Jahagir crops like Jawar, Sugar cane, Chilly, Cotton, Tobacco etc. were grown in Ichalkaranji jahagir. Narayanrao Babasaheb Ghorpade initiated to train the cultivators to grow good quality sugar cane and produce Jaggery. This yielded good results and Jaggery of Ichalkaranji attracted in the markets of Kolhapur and Sangli. Narayanrao Babasaheb Ghorpade also paid more attention and took efforts for the production cotton of good quality.¹

Agriculture was practised at the subsistence level and very few farmers had surplus agricultural production. Justice M.G.Ranade had advised Babasaheb that, "economic development could not be achieved unless outside money was brought home."²

Industry based on agricultural products was one of the ways to bring money from outside home. Handloom weavers in view of the dry climate of Ichalkaranji, were already producing cloth, when Narayanrao

ascended the Ichalkaranji gadi; they were given a separate area for their handlooms.

Ichalkaranji had got a tradition of weaving industry long before 1845. The records show that, "In 1845, in Hatkanangale taluka of Kolhapur District there were 636 hand-looms, of which 236 handlooms were in Ichalkaranji itself. ³

In 1848 the population of Ichalkaranji was 7152 and in common with other dependencies of parents state-Kolhapur. "The population was the manufacturers being restricted to a few 'Camblees' and cotton cloths some of which were exported." ⁴

These references show that in Ichalkaranji though the population was agricultural, there was also an industrial base in the form of hand looms which were producing 'Camblees' and cotton clothes.

Babasaheb Ghorpade brought in few families and wanted that yarn and silk be dyed in Ichalkaranji itself. He sent some talented weavers to Bombay for training and supported them by providing monetary help. "Dyed yarn and silk of Ichalkaranji got popularity in market outside and the producers started supplying the yarn and silk to other markets. New shops supplying raw yarn and silk were opened by merchants in Ichalkaranji shortly." ⁵

The weavers started weaving heavy Patagi (kind of cloth) on handloom and sold at local markets. The business increased due to demand and attracted good returns. Patagi and Kunbau Sutade (kinds of cloth) from Ichalkaranji became popular and got branded names. Some of the lazy weaver families returned to their native places, whereas the hardworking weaving families saw better prospects in future and settled in Ichalkaranji. Babasaheb's experiment became successful and gave good returns. As Ichalkaranji produce attracted customers outside the nearby state rulers tried to persuade the weavers by giving good facilities and subsidies to settle in their states. But the weavers were not ready to leave Ichalkaranji. ⁶

(II) BEGINNING OF THE COTTON INDUSTRY :

Though we found the references of weaving industry of Ichalkaranji, there was nothing unique about weaving industry of Ichalkaranji. By 1882 there were 3102 total number of weaving looms, out of these 688 in Ajara, 654 in Gadhinglaj, 422 in Karveer, 397 in Shirol, 350 in Ichalkaranji, 236 in Panhala, 179 in Kagal, 86 in Bhudargad, 58 in Bavada and 32 in Vishalgad. Besides these, 17 looms in Kolhapur jail

factory weaved all sort of cloths including towels and tablecloths. ⁷

Thus by 1882 A.D. Ichalkaranji with 350 handlooms was ranked fifth out of ten places, though it had larger number of looms than most other places in Kolhapur state. ⁸

Looking at the number of handlooms between the period 1882 to 1892, Ichalkaranji was the only place in Kolhapur state which processed more than 300 looms. The industry expanded during the course of a decade since 1882. The report on Industrial survey of Kolhapur state, published in 1895 testifies to this fact by stating that, "The number of looms working on cotton cloth in Ichalkaranji Jahagir had increased from 337 in 1882 to 447 by 1895. ⁹

The number of looms in 1882 given in this report differs from that given in the "Bombay Gazetteer Kolhapur district",. The difference is only of 13 looms.

As regards the potentiality of the industrial development of Ichalkaranji, the report showed great hopes by stating that, "Ichalkaranji has a dry climate, a large population, a weekly bazaar day, a big trade and the most important thing is that it has an educated and cultured ruler in Shrimant Babasaheb to look after its interests, as a result of these factors there is no doubt that Ichalkaranji will become, in the near future, a

centre of flourishing and important trade. And other towns in Kolhapur state will derive considerable benefit by emulating the example of Ichalkaranji.¹⁰

Dependency on the handlooms could not achieve rapid growth of the industry and heavy returns. Some other ways and means were to be found out. Vithalrao Datar made such first effort in the area. V.K. Datar after completing his technical education at Pune and started Lock Making factory at Ichalkaranji in 1902. Later he got attracted towards weaving industry. With the support of Narayanrao Babasaheb Ghorpade, Mr. Datar started a power-loom factory successfully and the result was good.¹¹

In those days farmers around Ichalkaranji were producing ample quantity of cotton of KUMATHA (Variety of Cotton) brand. This was sold at other markets, but the producers were unable to get good price. Therefore sending cotton to other markets for sale was banned. So the local cotton could be made available to the weaving industry. This policy helped both the weavers and the cotton producers. The weavers got cotton at low prices and the producers received appropriate prices. After some years Narayanrao Babasaheb Ghorpade made efforts among cultivators to produce high quality cotton. As a result

the new what was known as JAYAWANT brand cotton was produced by the farmers.¹²

In 1908 Vitthalrao Datar opened “Venktesh Rangtantu Mills” in Ichalkaranji. The mill produced ‘KUNBAU DHOTI’ and PAIRANI (kinds of clothes) cloth in the initial stages. The people of Ichalkaranji knew only the engine of drawing water. The mill not only introduced new machinery but gave the people mechanical attitude.¹³

Some of the merchants thought of opening the cloth mill. With Co-operative efforts Rupchand Shetji Gujar, Keshav Premchand and Virypaksh Anna Sultanpure started a Spinning Jenny factory. Narayanrao Babasaheb Ghorpade provided the land to the factory and Vithalrao Datar handled the machinery.

After the successful project of spinning Jenny Cotton-press become quite a necessary thing. Spinning Jenny, and cotton-press factories at Ichalkaranji resulted in greater demand for raw cotton in the Ichalkaranji market. Thus, thousands of cotton bales were sent to Bombay from Ichalkaranji market.¹⁴

The experiment of power looms became successful and profitable within a short period of time. The younger brother of Vitthalrao Datar, Mr. Raghunathrao Datar procured Japanese looms and erected a small factory. Before it could gain Raghunathrao fell to the

attack of influenza in 1908 and succumbed to it. Therefore his efforts fell short.

With the death of Raghunathrao, there was a temporary set back to the loom industry, but the experiment did not stop. The hardworking and ambitious persons like Balwantrao Marathe carried ahead the spirit of Raghunathrao in power loom sector.¹⁵

Balwantrao Marathe was a clerk, working for Babasaheb Ghorpade in Ichalkaranji Jahagir. He noticed that one of his assistants called Parsu had the side business of dying the yarn. Dying of raw yarn was a profitable business. Balwantrao Marathe started this enterprise with Parasu paying more careful attention.

Mr. Haripure was also working in this sector. As a weaver, he was carrying ahead the work of his forefathers. With the support of Babasaheb, Haripure constructed a 'Cinema Theatre' and run the theatre with great success. Shrimant Babasaheb's contribution in constructing the theatre was greater. In the later period fifteen to twenty workers entered the area of looms an achieved success.¹⁶

One of the factories started manufacturing engines required for looms. The weavers industry flourished and this took place during the tenure of Babasaheb Ghorpade.¹⁷

Narayanrao Babasaheb Ghorpade, the ruler of Ichalkaranji, did assist the industrial development of Ichalkaranji in every possible way, for regulating 'civic affairs a separate Municipal Council was established by him in the year 1893.¹⁸

Further, with his full encouragement the power looms were installed and gray cloth was produced. The first power loom factory known as 'Venktesh Rangtantu Mills' was started by Vithalrao Datar in 1908.¹⁹

In the field of fancy sarees, Balawantrao Marathe started producing sarees and after his death his sons created a name of Marthe Textile, not only at Ichalkaranji but also established jennings factory at Miraj.²⁰

Though Ichalkaranji had a long tradition of handloom weaving, it hardly possessed any natural advantage so as to attract the industry to itself, at the beginning of this century. But Babasaheb Ghorpade was deeply interested in industrial development at Ichalkaranji and he made every possible effort with the limited resources of the Jahagir at his disposal.

Further, Babasaheb Ghorpade frequently advanced money through the treasury to the weavers when they badly required finances for the purpose of keeping their industry running. He did not burden the industry with any taxes but allowed the industry to grow

unhampered by any restrictive legislative measures. He gave plots of land for industrial purpose at concessional prices. Thus, he gave active encouragement to every enterprising and innovating person.

Moreover, with the support of Babasaheb Ghorpade, the first Bank in Ichalkaranji i.e. "The Ichalkaranji Central Co-operative Bank was started in 1929." ²¹

The Bank became useful for the traders and industrialists for meeting their commercial demands. In the year 1930 the Bank was converted from 'The Ichalkaranji Central Co-operative Bank Ltd., Ichalkaranji' to 'Central Co-operative Bank', Babasaheb ^{had} ~~had~~ given one fifth of the initial capital to the Bank.

The Bank had to shoulder both the responsibilities of providing the capital to the co-operative societies in the Jahagir as well as to undertake the development and growth of co-operative principles. It had to help the trade and commerce with required capital.

In this way though Ichalkaranji had hardly any natural advantages, it was due to Babasaheb Ghorpade's foresight, backed up by other factors, which brought the industrial development of Ichalkaranji.

The other factors which must be mentioned here in the industrial development of Ichalkaranji were that "Commercial services like banking and marketing grew up and developed. The Marwari merchants built up market for power loom sarees. Labour became familiar with the techniques of industry and in course of time a high standard of workmanship was developed. ²²

In this way the experience and enterprise of the people, the availability of technical know-how relating to power loom industry rather than the availability of commercial ability or abundance of capital which influenced the location of the industry at Ichalkaranji particularly in its initial stage of growth. ²³

In the initial stages only handloom industry expanded in Ichalkaranji. After 1892, when Babasaheb Ghorpade ascended the gadi, the power loom industry was started along with handloom industry. The growth of population of the town during this period also indirectly bears testimony to the expansion of these industries.

In the initial stages cloth in Ichalkaranji was produced by handlooms and the finished product was not analistative hence it could not be sold appropriately and yield good returns in markets. However industry needed a lot of human labour. So Babasaheb thought of developing powrlooms produced

quality sarees and soon Ichalkaranji got attention of all major markets throughout India. Ichalkaranji sarees reached everywhere in the country. The demand increased powerlooms flourished. This could be achieved only with the able leadership of Babasaheb and hard efforts to the people of Ichalkaranji.

During the fifty years tenure of Babasaheb Ghorpade the power looms increased and in 1942 there were as many as 1100 looms and 3000 workers. The cloth market gave returns up to rupees 45,200/-. Not only that Babasaheb sowed the seed of cloth industry in Ichalkaranji, but he brought Ichalkaranji town to the name of "Manchester of Maharashtra" even before independence. His efforts were praise worthy.²⁴

(IV) CO-OPERATIVE MOVEMENT IN ICHALKARANJI :

19th century is treated to be an important era in the human Civilisation because due to major scientific technological inventions and their application eased the human life and happiness increased manifold. This century is also considered to be important for the origin and growth of the co-operative movement in European nations. The middle and lower classes have benefited in countries like England because of the co-operative institutes. In England Co-operative institutes like

“Rachdel Pioneers” flourished Co-operative institutes of the workers and small businessmen grew at large scale in Italy and Germany. In smaller nations like Holland and Ireland the Co-operative agricultural produce and sales societies developed and farmers and middle classes achieved higher returns.

Indian Government noticed Co-operative movement in European countries and the Government passed first Co-operative Societies Act in 1904. The first farmers Co-operative Credit Society established at Bombay presidency in 1905. Lord Curzon made good efforts in setting co-operative movement in India.²⁵

In Bombay Presidency late Mr. Sane, late Mr. Deodhar and their colleagues paid attention towards the movement. The new movement got exposure in daily newspapers and discussions began. Shrimant Babasaheb Ghorpade also came to know about the new movement. There was not single co-operative society in southern Maharashtra. Around 1910-11 Babasaheb called late Mr. Achyut Desai of Belgaum to Ichalkaranji and discussed with him about the efforts to be made for the weavers and farmers and tried the possibility of opening co-operative society in Ichalkaranji Jahagir. The auditor of the co-operative society for south region Mr. Udhyawar was also invited for the guidelines. Some co-operative societies were working at Dharwad at the time.

Babasaheb sent some weavers, labourers to Dharwad for getting information of the societies. The weavers then gave the information to Babasaheb. ²⁶

In 1892 Babasaheb took the charge of Ichalkaranji Jahagir. Mr. Justice Ranade gave him the following advise,

“Though your Jahagir is smaller in area and sessions and criminal rights are limited, you are free and independent about revenue. You can make overall development of the 75000 population of the Jahagir by providing them education, health, business facilities to the people. You should not deride from your duty. Ichalkaranji Jahagir can appear to be very smaller to your ambition. But there are very few to get such a Jahagir. In this small area you can achieve fame and fortune by your workmanship.” ²⁷

In British rule Shrimant Babasaheb Ghorpade was considered to be cultured and able ruler among the southern Maharashtra countries. In his long tenure he drastically changed the outlook of Ichalkaranji. He believed that the co-operative movement can bring drastic change in the economic growth of the town. So he boosted the co-operative movement in the Jahagir.

In 1913 Babasaheb had toured European countries. During his stay in Europe he visited various co-operative societies in different nations and closely

observed their functioning. He visited different towns in Ireland in particular and observed the co-operative societies. He firmly believed that for overall Independent of rural areas, it is necessary to open co-operative societies. His views were not bookish but based on actual experience. He finalised his policy about co-operative societies by visiting these societies which had become hundred percent successful.

During his visits to Irish co-operative societies, Babasaheb met renowned scholar on co-operation, Sir Hores Pluncket; In his discussion with Sir Hores Pluncket Babasaheb clarified different concepts. Like Sir Pluncket Mr. Ulf in England had made study of co-operative credit societies and had written a book called "People's Bank." This was highly useful for the credit societies in co-operative sector. In this stay in England, Babasaheb held discussions with Mr. Ulf and got advise about the opening of credit societies in co-operative sector. Babasaheb translated the "People's Bank" in Marathi language also.

After discussing with Mr. Ulf Babasaheb had assured that, totally eradication of poverty and increase the economic condition of Indian farmers, the co-operative societies can play important role. Babasaheb believing that, if there is netting of co-operative societies, the farmers could be really benefited.

Babasaheb's this perception was really worked, because today the co-operative movement in Ichalkaranji has taken firm root.

With the help of information collected in Babasaheb's life and in particular within foreign visits, his thoughts about co-operative movement ^{were} as under-

“ The leaders and their colleagues should accept unselfishness, because management of the co-operative societies is in their hands. They should work in such a way that their other colleagues in societies, should not incur any loss. If they try to obtain their own benefits and try to neglect other members of societies then that society can not run properly. When a decision to erect any society is taken try to get the knowledge required for it. Politics and religious fundamentalism must not enter in any condition in the society. If the strength of these factors increased then, there will be dominance of one group or one religion in society and that will really go against some members of society, so, to avoid this, there should not be entry for political or religious things in the society.” ²⁸

Babasaheb also told that, there will be difficult to build any society unless and until the members of societies accept the Co-operative spirit.

Babasaheb told about working policy for co-operative society and loan returning issue that

committees of society should work aggressively and loan owners should return the loan regularly, with the feelings of their responsibility. ²⁹

Narayanrao Babasaheb Ghorpade expressed his thoughts about co-operation and also delivered some lectures in co-operation conferences. In the co-operation conference held at Pune on 26 August, 1914, he told that the leaders of such societies the business tendency is not sufficient, the tendency to look after the well being of people must be in them. In a co-operation conference held at Belguam on 24 April 1917, he discussed about two important things namely economic investment and leadership. His lecture in co-operation conference held at Pune on 18 August 1917, was very successful and effective. He told in this conference, how to work and how to speed up the co-operative movement. Babasaheb had also written some good books, in addition to his lectures, on the subject. He had written a research paper named "A flying visit to a few co-operative societies in Ireland." And book named "Impressions of British Life and Character." He translated both of them in Marathi also.

In short, the work of Narayanrao Babasaheb was very much important among those who had worked for spreading co-operative movement in Maharashtra before

independence. While working as a leader of a Jahagir, he always cleverly tried to increase co-operation sector.

Co-operation expert and managing directory of Bombay Co-operative Bank, before independence V.L. Mehta said that, "Among some of those who had taken part in the co-operative movement in southern Indian states, Babasaheb Ghorpade of Ichalkaranji Jahagir, was important personality. His tendency and devotion towards co-operative movement as well as his deep study was very much honourable and he, may be referred as 'Father of co-operative Movement'".³⁰

Babasaheb Ghorpade : Founder Of Co-Operative Societies :

Babasaheb Ghorpade helped properly the businessmen and industrialists in Ichalkaranji, and cleverly tried for industrial development. He gave money with low interest rates to businessmen for raising factory, press and, for buying cotton. But he could not provided loan in large scale. He tried to solve economic problems of farmers and merchants.

Babasaheb tried to develop co-operative movement and awareness among the people of Ichalkaranji, with the help of organising the co-operation conferences in his Jahagir. He organised first co-operation conference

limited to his own Jahagir in 1930. In this conference he brought out the importance of the co-operation in rural areas, which would help poor people or farmers to free themselves from the money lender. Babasaheb had founded some co-operative societies as under.

Rural co-opertive credit societies :

To enhance the economic condition of farmers, Babasaheb inspired the erection of Co-operative societies in rural areas. Not only that, he also helped as much as he could.

Shrimant Babasaheb Ghorpade started the first co-operative society at Rangoli on 20 February, 1913. In 1942, there were 137 members and its turnover was rupees 22,145/-. Within fifteen years, thirteen co-operative societies were founded due to efforts of Babasaheb Ghorpade in rural area. As well as two credit societies were started at Sohale and Mendholi on 1 Octomber, 1927. At Ichalkaranji and Bahirewadi, the two urban credit societies were founded. Information about these rural credit societies is tabulated ³¹ in Chapter II, table No. 2.1

Co-operative Dhanya (grain) societies :-

In the Jahagir of Ichalkaranji, Ajara region was hilly and had more villages. Farming was the main business of the people. But due to less agricultural land, they could not manage their income and expenditure. In the rainy season poor farmers had to face the difficulties like starvation. The rich farmers took advantages of such condition of poor farmers. They gave some required food material in rainy season to poor farmers and took almost double of it, at the time of harvest. Therefore the poor farmers became poor and poor.

In this critical condition Babasaheb took decision to start co-operative grain societies. Under the able guidance of Babasaheb Ghorpade six Co-operative grain societies were started. The information regarding these societies are given in the table No.2.2 in the Chapter II.³²

Four corn societies were started in 1920. The first co-operative grain society was started at Ite. Among these co-operative societies biggest society was at Shirsangi and smallest one was at Khanapur. If the member of Khanapur society, except the Sohole grain society, was in larger number than other societies. It was true that the small farmers benefited a lot from

these grain societies. But, grain societies were less in number as compared to co-operative credit societies.

Urban co-operative credit societies :

Babasaheb Ghorpade started co-operative credit societies for the rural people and the urban people. As there was no banking facility in Ichalkaranji Jahagir upto 1921, in Ichalkaranji, the central co-operative bank was found. Therefore Babasaheb started two urban co-operative credit societies at Ichalkaranji and Bahirewadi.

The Ichalkaranji urban co-operative credit society was started on 28 February, 1920 and total number of members were 461. The Bahirewadi urban co-operative credit society was founded on 9 July 1921 and the total number of members were 86 only.

With the help of these two societies the loans were provided to the members according to their credit and requirement. Among the two societies the society in Bahirwadi did not develop like the society in Ichalkaranji, because there was less business, as compared to Ichalkaranji. ³³

The Ichalkaranji Central Co-operative Bank :

The Ichalkaranji Central Co-operative Bank was also started in the year 1921 with the help of financial assistance of Babasaheb Ghorpade. He gave one fifth of the initial capital to the bank. The detailed information is given in the Chapter-II (table no.2.3).

(V) LABOUR MOVEMENT IN ICHALKARANJI :

In 1942 there were 1100 spinning machines in Ichalkaranji. There were 3000 labourers. After second world war Marwari businessmen came in large numbers. As the spinning business increased, the number of labourers in business & industrial field also increases.

While the employers were interested in enhancing their profits, the employees wanted increase in wages.

The labour faced certain problems especially relating to the working hours, wages, holidays and security. To solve these problems the labour unions were started and through these unions labour movements developed.

Industrial development in cloth business was tremendous in Ichalkaranji. The labours working in these industries came together and founded "Ichalkaranji Mill Labour Association", in 25/06/1939. ³⁶

Objectives and rules of Ichalkaranji Mill Labour Association:

1. To plan the necessary things required for the social, educational, economical & political development of mill labour.
2. To form the association of all mill labours in Ichalkaranji.
3. Try to improve employment rules of the members of association & to make life of the members happy.
4. Try to eliminate the problems of labours.
5. Try to increase wages & to prevent it from decreasing.
6. To help labour in difficult situations like unemployment during period of illness.
7. While working in industry if there is any accident then try to help labour in obtaining compensation from owner.
8. Try to implement the rules which are made for safety of labour.
9. To help labour during the strike period.
10. Any cloth mill labour can become a member of association by giving rupee one per month provided he should accept all rules of

association and he should not related with any other association.

11. Labour should be member of association for minimum of six months. He could not ask for any help before this period of six months.
12. Labour whose three months fee was not paid have no right to ask for any help until they pay the fees and only after two months payment of fees, they would be helped.
13. To give membership to any labour or not depends upon the director body.
14. Association members register includes name of member, name of mill in which he is working, his address and other information.
15. Director body should consult with managing committee which includes presidents of mill committee from each industry.
16. Association Executives i) President ii) Vice-president iii) General-secretary iv) Secretary. Except president selection of all others is made by director body. Director body includes fifteen to seventeen members from managing committee. Selection of other executives should be made from director body with the permission of president. President should be selected in general meeting.

17. Duties of executives :

President : To accept the place of associations' presidentship. Arrange general meeting. To supervise and sign the annual report of association. In situation of tie voting, to give extra vote.

Vice President : To help president, to accept duties of president in his absence.

General Secretary : To record routine work, to communicate, to arrange meeting, to see accounts of association.

Secretary : To help general secretary in his work. To supervise working of association.

18. Association's accounting and other work remains in hands of director body.

19. There should be minimum one meeting during a month and it will be arranged according to decision taken by general secretary with permission of president. General secretary can arrange the meeting in emergency with the permission of president.

20. For meeting there must be one third members of director body should present.

21. The members which are involved in strike without permission of association could not get any help from association.

22. All funds of association were kept in the bank on the accounts of president, vice-president, general secretary, secretary and cashier. The money can be refunded from bank with permission of three of above including president and general secretary. General secretary and secretary should always have with them minimum fifteen rupees.
23. Proper auditor should check the financial matters of association.
24. Members of association can check any records of association at proper time in office.
25. For taking emergency decision the committee of five experts is formed and associates should consult those members in emergency.
26. Annual general meeting will be held in June in which selection of director body, budget and other subjects are discussed.
27. Changing any rule or adding any another rule is carried out with majority of director body.
28. Meeting will be held if more than half members of association asked for it with written permission.
29. Unless and until three fourth of members of association have decided in general meeting, association can not be stopped. ³⁷

To gain information about Ichalkaranji Mill Labour Association an official letter came from Prime Minister office Kolhapur to Ichalkaranji. To take detailed information about labour association Karbhari of Ichalkaranji Jahagir wrote to magistrate of Ichalkaranji on 18 November 1939.

“What are objectives and programmes of Mill Labour Association, Ichalkaranji Jahagir. If there are any written documents please send four copies of it. The true copy of order of Prime Minister’s office is connected with this letter.”

After collecting information from honorary magistrate, Ichalkaranji, Karbhari of Ichalkaranji Jahagir send above information to Kolhapur on 02/12/1939 by a letter. ³⁸

In the letter written by K.V. Tamhankar, the Karbhari of Ichalkaranji jahagir dated 21/12/1939, there was reference of association named “Girani Kamagar Sangh” of Ichalkaranji town.

There was a reference of another organisation named “Ichalkaranji Mill Hands Union” which was formed on 15 June, 1939 in the letter written by Karbhari of Ichalkaranji jahagir to the Prime Minister of Kolhapur. ³⁹

In short there were three organisations in Ichalkaranji town namely 1) Ichalkaranji Mill Labour Association 2) Girani Kamagar Sangh and 3) Ichalkaranji Mill Hands Union.

(V) CONCLUSION :

Maharsashtra contributes significantly to the output and employment in the power loom industry. Ichalkaranji has the distinction of being a major centre of power loom industry in Maharashtra. The reputation of Ichalkaranji's traditional fabrics has legendary. Ichalkaranji has provided varieties of cloth to the millions.

As the development and increase of textile industry the lot of problems of workers were also increased. The workers therefore tried to unite together and started movement against their employers.

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CHAPTER VI

FREEDOM MOVEMENT IN ICHALKARANJI JAHAGIR : FIRST PHASE

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(I) INTRODUCTION :

Though the freedom Movement in Ichalkaranji has continuity, it can be divided for convenience of study into two parts. The first period is from 1930 to 1941 and the second from July, 1941 onwards. The Quit India Movement, which was a watershed in the freedom movement of India, serves as the beginning of aggressive phase of the freedom movement in Ichalkaranji also. In this chapter the first phase of the freedom movement in Ichalkaranji will be dealt with.

It should be borne in mind that freedom movement in Ichalkaranji is a part of the Indian freedom movement. However there are local variations. The Indian freedom movement, in its negative aspect, was anti-British in nature and therefore older than the Indian National Congress. The risings of Umaji Naik (1832), Vasudeo Balawant Phadke (1845-83) and the Gadakaris of Kolhapur (1844) and of course the great rising of 1857, were by their very nature anti-British.

The rising of 1857 is significant for the study of unrest in Indian states regarding the British rule. In this uprising people and ruler of the Indian native states took active part, in both north and south India. Kolhapur, Satara, Jamkhandi, Miraj, Hyderabad etc. were the states, where revolt against the British rule took place. ¹

The Indian National Movement perhaps the biggest mass movement was in the world. It was the movement in which hundreds and thousands of people, regardless of caste, class, ideology, sex and religion gathered together in a political action. The National Movement has been viewed by many scholars of the present day historical research from their own point of view. The outstanding features of this movement were based upon political, social and economic perspectives of its leaders. The movement popularised ideas and institutions in this country. The movement was closely connected with the struggle for economic development. Since the early 19 century, the Indian leaders have developed a broad international perspective. The Cambridge school looks at this movement in a different context, denying the existence of colonialism as seen by them primarily as foreign rule. Their analysis of the movement is based upon the basic contradiction between the interest of the Indian people

and of British colonialism and causative role this contradiction played in the rise of the National Movement.

The first World War broke out in 1914 and lasted upto 1919. This war affected the whole world, including India, which was under the control of British. All the Indian rulers, without any exception, contributed financially according to their capacity and encouraged recruitment.

The Indian National Congress initiated written protest against the British rule which were followed by organised agitations. In Indian states especially Southern Maratha Country states, the Praja Parishad organised protest, while the Congress spearheaded agitation in British India. The leaders of Praja Parishad and the Congress had good working relationship. The aim of these two organisations was the same i.e., to achieve freedom from the British power.²

National congress and the native states -

“ Out of total of about six hundred and ninety five native states, the southern Maratha Country states consist of only scattered groups of villages which add to the already enormous difficulties of their administration.”³

The National Congress was constituted in the year 1885 and its first session was held at Bombay on 28 December, 1885, under the chairmanship of W. C. Bannerjee. Many National Congress activists hailed from the native States and regularly attended its session. The National Congress tried to protect the rulers of the Native States from the British dominance hegemony. A resolution was repeatedly passed in its 12, 13 and 14 sessions: "No Native State Ruler may be forced into abdication unless his misrule or misconduct is enquired into and proved by an investigation conducted by the Tribunal appointed for the purpose."⁴

"After 1920, the reins of the National Congress came in the hands of Mahatma Gandhi, but curiously, he did not feel it necessary to agitate for liberating the Native States' Subjects from the oppression of their rulers."⁵

Mahatma Gandhi wanted to focus the freedom movement on the British Government, which was foreign in origin rather than the Indian States rulers. "He felt that the National Congress interference in the Native States' affairs would jeopardise the interests of the subjects of these States. He was also of the opinion that the people of Native States were not competent to agitate against the British domination,

hence, their problems were not on the agenda of the National Congress.”⁶

In this way the Indian National Congress gave an institutional, all India framework to the opposition to the British and tried to give a positive aspect of freedom, outlining the principles and policies which will form the basis of Independent India.

With aim of liberating the Native States from the clutches of the Native Rulers, N.C.Kelkar, G.R.Abhyankar and Wamanrao Patwardhan, promoters of the Southern Maharashtra Native States Movement (Dakshin Maharashtra Sansthan Chalval) proposed to constitute an All India Native States' Subject Forum (“Akhil Bharatiya Sansthan Lok Parishad”). The preparatory meeting of the forum took place at Bombay (now Mumbai) on 5 March, 1922, and the first convention was held on 17 - 18 December, 1927, also at Bombay, under the Chairmanship of M. Ramchandrarao.”⁷The convention put forward the following demands of the subjects of the princely states :

1. To reduce the personal expenditure of the rulers.
2. To appoint commissions for enquiring into the grievances of the subjects.
3. To amalgamate small neighbouring states into one large state.

4. To establish a separate High - Court of

Judicature for the subjects of Native States.

“In the next twelve years the forum regularly held its conventions at different places all over India, that were chaired by such eminent persons as C.Y.Chintamani, Ramanand Chatterjee, N.C.Kelkar, Dr.Pattabhi Sitaramayya and Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru.” ⁸

Ichalkaranji jahagir praja sangh -

In the Princely State of Kolhapur, there were a total of nine Jahagirs. Four Jahagirs, namely, (1) Vishalgad, (2) Bavada, (3) Kagal (Senior), and (4) Ichalkaranji, were large ones, while the remaining five Jahagirs, namely, (1) Kapashi, (2) Torgal, (3) Sarlashkar, (4) Kagal (Junior), and (5) Himmat Bahaddur, were small ones. Among these, because of its size and revenue, Ichalkaranji Jahagir was quite significant.

Shrimant Narayanrao Babasaheb Ghorpade, Jahagirdar of Ichalkaranji, had initiated several reforms for improving the administration of Ichalkaranji. In the year 1930, as more funds were needed to complete these reforms, he imposed stiff land revenue in Ajra taluka of his Jahagir, thereby

sowing the seeds of discontent among the rural subjects of the region.

The people in the Jahagir, most of whom were subsistence peasants, were opposed to the unjust rise in land revenue and raised the banner of an agitation under the leadership of Ramchandra Sakharam Joshi. In the meeting of the village leaders and prominent people held on 19 April, 1930 at his residence, the "Ajara Taluka Praja Sabha" was born. ⁹

On realising the simmering revolt of the rayats in Ajara Taluka, Shrimant Babasaheb Ghorpade proposed to reduce the raised land revenue by half. The original 21 per cent raise was brought down to 10.5 per cent. The leaders of the agitation had earlier promised to pay the revenue with 10.5 per cent raise for a year. But for the next eight years, the officials of the Jahagir committed excesses in suppressing the riots's agitations and recovering the revenue. This made the Ichalkaranji rayat to follow in the footsteps of the rayats in the nearby Kolhapur State. ¹⁰

To begin with, the tax burden on the riots was quite heavy. Hence, though Shrimant Narayanrao Babasaheb Ghorpade reduced the 21 per cent raise in the revenue to 10.5 per cent, the burden even with the lowered increase became simply unbearable. The leaders like Joshi, Parulekar and Apte, therefore,

decided to take up the issue again through an agitation. On 30th September, 1938, a meeting of the leaders was held in the house of Ramchandra Sakharam Joshi at Ajra, in which a people's forum (Praja Sangh) was formed on 26th January 1939. This was the beginning of Ichalkaranji Jahagir Praja Sangh. ¹¹

(II) Background Of Freedom Movement In Ichalkaranji Jahagir :

The year 1938 was quite a turbulent one for the democracy movements in the native states. Global recession, famine conditions, and the consequent starvation made the subjects in several native states to unite against their rulers. The movement turned violent in Talyar, Gangpur, Ranpur, Athagad, and Nilgiri States in Orissa province. There was Police firing at some places. Resident Major Buzzlegate was killed. He was the first victim of the movement of the native states' people's movement. ¹²

In Kolhapur State also, organised agitation against the ruler began on 18 August, 1938. The major demands of the agitators were: (1) reduction in the backbreaking land revenue, (2) grant of full civil rights to people, and (3) establishment of a government system responsible to the people in the State. To formulate a strategy to pursue these

demands, the agitators held a meeting at Shirol on 6 February, 1939, in which the "Kolhapur Sansthan Praja Parishad" was formed. ¹³

**Aims, Objectives and the Programmes of
Ichalkaranji jahagir praja sangh :**

The operational area of Ichalkaranji Praja Sangh was limited to the boundaries of Ichalkaranji Jahagir. Its ultimate objective was to secure a responsible government, while maintaining loyalty towards both, the Chhatrapati of Kolhapur and to the Jahagirdar of Ichalkaranji. For attaining this objective, the Praja Sangh aimed to adopt the course of non-violence as adopted by the National Congress and also to follow legitimate means for an overall upliftment of the people. The programmes of the Sangh, broadly, were as under:¹⁴

1. To establish a Jahagir Panchayat and to secure adult franchise for representation in public institutions;
2. To redress the grievances of peasants, mill workers and working class people;
3. To pursue the enactment of legislation conducive to the upliftment of agriculturists

and other working classes, e.g. Peasants' Debt Redemption Act, Factories Act, etc.;

4. To strive for securing undelayed justice for the people;
5. To reduce corruption in the bureaucracy;
6. To undertake for the purpose of village development:
 - (a) creation of ancillary economic activities and co-operative societies for the benefit of peasants;
 - (b) securing of compulsory free primary education for children and propagation of adult and women's education;
 - (c) making public institutions like banks, co-operative societies people-oriented;
 - (d) reservation of government jobs in relation to the population of a caste/community;
 - (e) propagation of Hindi as the national language;
- (7) To make the people aware of the provisions of the laws relating to the daily life, e.g. debt eradication act.

A working committee of fifteen members was appointed for implementing the above programmes.

The working committee was responsible to the Praja Sangh. The Ichalkaranji Jahagir Praja Sangh's main office was situated at Ichalkaranji. ¹⁵

The principle workers of the praja sangh :

Dhondi Tawanappa Chivate -

He was a shopkeeper from a Jain family with Miraj as his native place. He first came to Ichalkaranji in 1934, and he opened a Utensil Shop in the name of his daughter Chandrakala. In 1939 he took part in the agitation started in Ichalkaranji. He was the president of Ichalkaranji Jahagir Praja Sangh. He became dictator of Praja Sangh in year 1942. He was educated upto fourth standard.

Narayan Tukaram Bugad -

Bugad was a Weaver by caste and his native place was Ichalkaranji. He was a ordinary dealer in Sarees. He was educated upto English standard fifth. He was also a bus driver upto 1936, became the president of the Praja Sangh in 1939. He was a follower of Mahatma Gandhi.

Shripad Adappa Bhoje -

His native place was Ichalkaranji. And by caste and religion he was a Jain and by occupation an agriculturist. He took part in the Satyagrah Movement

of 1931 at Satara. He was at first working in the Ichalkaranji Congress Committee. Afterwards he joined the Praja Sangh.

Narayan Laxman Badave -

He was Maratha Weaver by caste residing at Ichalkaranji and ^ehis was a mill hand. He took part in the agitation of 1932. He was also a member of Ichalkaranji Jahagir Praja Sangh.

Shankar Satlinge Kanthe -

By caste he was Maratha Weaver residing at Ichalkaranji. He served as an account writer. He worked in the "Samaj Sudharak Tarun Mandal", Gandhi Camp and also in Praja Sangh. "Samaj Sudharak Tarun Mandal" alias Gandhi Camp were the youth organisations in Ichalkaranji devoted to social reforms. Kanthe was the secretary of Prajasangh for sometime.

Shankar Bala Telsinge -

By caste he was Lingayat Weaver and he was a Saree-Mill owner. He worked in Samaj Sudharak Tarun Mandal; Gandhi Camp and in the Praja Sangh. He was the vice-president of Praja Sangh and was elected in the Municipality on behalf of Praja Sangh.

Dagadu Dadu Belekar -

He was a Maratha Weaver residing at Ichalkaranji and his occupation was Mill-Worker. He was sentenced

to rigorous imprisonment for six months at Pune in the year 1931 for picketing foreign goods. He also worked in the Praja Sangh. He took part in the movements of 1931 and 1932.

Annasaheb Girgonda Patil (Shiragurkar Patil)-

His native place was Shiradwad. By caste he was a Jain and his occupation was farming. At first he joined Madhavrao Bagal and took part in the anti-government movement. He worked in the Praja Parishad of Kolhapur in the year 1939. Afterwards he joined Ichalkaranji Praja Sangh.

Shivgonda Malgonda Patil -

By caste he was a Lingayat and his occupation was Farming and Merchant. He was a resident of Ichalkaranji. He joined and worked in the Ichalkaranji Praja Sangh.

Atmaram Tukaram Patil -

He was a farmer residing at Sharadwad and his caste was Lingayat. He worked in the Praja Sangh as a vice-president of Ichalkaranji Jahagir Praja Sangh.

Bhupal Parisa Chavan -

By caste he was a Lingayat residing at Lat and his occupation was farming. He also worked in the Ichalkaranji Jahagir Praja Sangh.

Ganapat Daji Powar -

By caste he was a Maratha. He was also a writer and a resident of Manerajuri and an active member of Ichalkaranji Jahagir Praja Sangh. ¹⁵

The working committee of praja sangh :

The first office-bearers of the Praja Sangh were K.R.Patil, President Narayan Tukaram Bugad, Vice-President P.R.Parulekar, Vice-President, Kalgonda Tatoba Patil, Shankar Bala Telsinge, Annasaheb Hulke-Patil and Vasudeobhat Joshi were Secretaries.

In the ^{same} year i.e. 1939, K.R.Patil resigned and Narayan Bugad became the President and Dhondi Tawanappa Chivate, the General Secretary. Still later on, again there were some changes in the office-bearers. D.T.Chivate became the President and Shankar Telsinge, the General-Secretary. The other office-bearers were Narayan Bugad, Dagadu Belekar, Shankar Kanthe, Shivgonda Patil, Shripal Bhoje, Narayan Badave (all of Ichalkaranji), Bhupal Chavan (Lat), Atmaram Patil (Shirdwad), and Ganpat Powar (Manerajuri), were the Secretaries.

**Freedom movement and the correspondence
among praja sangh, Ichalkaranji jahagir and
Kolhapur Darabar:**

In a letter dated 21 February, 1939, Parshuram Raghunath Parulekar, Vice-President of Ichalkaranji Jahagir Praja Sangh, placed the demands of the subjects in the Ichalkaranji Jahagir before the Chhatrapati of Kolhapur. The letter particularly petitioned for the following three demands:

1. To bring down the land revenue in the Jahagir on par with the land revenue in the British Territory.

The Jahagirdarsaheb the letter stated, has nearly trebled the income of the Jahagir in the course of his regime and the extent of this increment is not to be found in any other State. Hence, there should be no objection to grant this simple request on behalf of the subjects. The subjects of Ichalkaranji Jahagir are also the subjects of the Maharajasaheb and so it is but just and a matter of right that the Jahagir subjects should get the concession in respect of land revenue like the subjects of Kolhapur Ilakha.

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2. To get the Factory Act or an Act on similar lines applied to the Jahagir.

In Ichalkaranji, there were many mills and the milliners made lakhs of rupees out of the work put in by the workers. But they did not pay the least attention to the welfare and convenience of the workers. It is, therefore, in the best interests of the workers to get such an Act enforced with the approval of the Darbar.

3. The Peasants Debt Redemption act be enforced with the approval of the Darbar.

This act has been brought into operation by the Kolhapur Darbar. In like manner, it is just that the Jahagir Riots should benefit by it. ¹⁸

It was the main grievance of the Praja Sangh that these three simple and proper demands of the subjects of Ichalkaranji were not granted by the Jahagirdar of Ichalkaranji. In the same letter, Shri.Parulekar informed that the subjects had decided to lead a march to the Jahagirsahab on 24 February, 1939, in the most non-violent, disciplined and peaceful manner. Lastly, he requested the Maharajasaheb to consider this petition sympathetically.

As stated in the letter, on 24 February, 1939, about 10,000 subjects took out a march to the Jahagirdar's palace under the leadership of K.R.Patil, the president of the Ichalkaranji Praja

Sangh. The Jahagirdar declined to meet them throughout the day. At about 4.00 P.M., he came out of the palace and talked for about ten minutes. In his speech, except for land revenue, he did not touch any other subject. He promised to bring down the land revenue on par with Kolhapur State and also stated that he did not have the authority to decide on their other demands.

Five Demands :

Because of the Jahagirdar's statement that Kolhapur Darbar is the main hurdle in granting these other demands, K.R.Patil submitted a petition to the Chhatrapati of Kolhapur on 26 February, 1939, placing before him the following five major demands of the Ichalkaranji subjects were :

1. that the land revenue be brought down on par with the British Territory;
2. that the acts like Peasants' Debt Redemption Act be made applicable for the benefit of the peasants;
3. that the acts like the factories' act, workmen's compensation act, etc., be made applicable for the benefit of the mill workers and labourers;
4. that civic rights be granted;
5. that a responsible government be established. ¹⁹

Even when the negotiations over the demands submitted by the Ichalkaranji Praja Sangh were in progress, the Mamlatdar of Ajara taluka in the Jahagir began coercing the riots for the recovery of the land revenue. Against this perceived injustice, Parshuram Parulekar, who was a vice-president of Ichalkaranji Praja Sangh, submitted a petition to the Prime Minister of Kolhapur Darbar on 3 March, 1939, in which he stated,

“When the Ichalkaranji Praja Sangh leaders discussed their demands (with you) in the presence of the (British) Resident and the Maharanisahiba, it was decided to bring down the land revenue in Ichalkaranji Jahagir on par with the land revenue in Kolhapur Ilakha and that the notification to that effect would be issued before 10 March, 1939. As such, the activities of the Mamlatdar of Ajara are unjust, that necessary orders for making him desist from such activities be issued forthwith”.²⁰

Proclamation of May,1939:

Ichalkaranji Praja Sangh repeatedly petitioned Kolhapur Darbar and its Prime Minister seeking redress from the grievances of the subjects of Jahagir. Finally, in May 1939, Kolhapur Darbar issued a proclamation applicable to all the Jahagirs of the Kolhapur State. The proclamation reads:

“His Highness the Chhatrapati Maharaja Saheb has been pleased to declare that the relevant rules should henceforth be immediately and scrupulously followed in the all the Jahagirs in the Kolhapur State and that effect should be given to the same wherever that has not been done. These rules being applicable to the Jahagirs ought to have been followed without deviation” ²¹

Inam Investigation Committee:

When the subjects of the jahagir had taken out a march to jahagirdar, he had given an assurance to reform the land revenue. Later on, during the negotiations held with the jahagirdar, the Chhatrapati and the Prime Minister of Kolhapur Darabar, a more

important demand of appointment of an 'Inam Investigation Committee' was also granted. In due course, a committee under the chairmanship of D.B.Mali was appointed to conduct investigations into the inam lands. The committee was to hold its proceedings for three days from 21,22 and 23 December,1939. Against this background, Ichalkaranji Praja Sangh issued a public appeal as follows:

"The Inam Investigation Committee of D.B.Mali will sit for three days from 21,22 and 23 December,1939. Those persons whose Inam lands have been forfeited or whose land grants have been withdrawn may present their complaints to the Committee without failing prey to any pressure or coercion. Likewise, all those persons whose houses, backyards and vacant lands have been illegally acquired or taxed by the jahagir may also present their applications".²²

When the Committee began its hearings on 21 December,1939, the rayats submitted various petitions to it. Some rayats lands were acquired as forests, some grazing pastures (gayran) owned by the village community were transferred to Jahagir's holdings,

while in some cases, cultivators' lands were transferred to village commons. As the number of such petitions kept growing, the Committee declared that it had no authority to accept such petitions for consideration and actually returned some petitions. Thereupon, even while the hearings of the committee were in progress, D.T.Chivate, chairman of the Praja Sangh, petitioned to the Prime Minister of Kolhapur on 22 December, 1939 apprising him of and pointing out the flaws in the functioning of the committee. He submitted in his petition,

“The petitioners are illiterate, rustic and only peasants. They do not have the requisite documents to attach with the petitions in support of their claims nor do they have the copies of the earlier resolutions. The documents are in the records of the Jahagir and hence are impossible to secure. The Committee may, therefore, be advised suitably. Also, the petitioners may not be able to answer the queries properly. Hence, they may be allowed to present the information through a knowledgeable person or pleader. The Committee may also be advised not to dispose off the

petitions presented till today but their hearing may be adjourned. Also, the proceedings of the Committee may be conducted in a just manner".²³

In this way, the Committee held its sitting for three days from 21,22 and 23.December,1939, under the chairmanship of Raosaheb D.B.Mali of Kolhapur and accepted nearly 225 applications during that period. At the end of this period, the Committee announced that, "The Committee will again sit on 10.1.1940 for one day only to receive further applications".²⁴ The members of Ichalkaranji Praja Sangh collected as many applications as possible during that period.

Even while the work of committee was in progress, its working was being criticized by the Ichalkaranji Praja Sangh and the rayats of Ichalkaranji Jahagir. On the one hand, the Ichalkaranji Praja Sangh was attempting to reform the working of the Committee, on the other, some subjects in Ichalkaranji petitioned to the Resident at Kolhapur on 23 December,1939, with their grievances and complaints about the Committee. Their petition reads:

"The work of the Committee in the last two days is very disappointing. It has

thrown away many applications as they pertain to Sheri lands. But the Sheri lands so the Jahagirdar through his revenue officers and these lands were originally belonging to subjects. The Jahagirdar has taken many lands of the people and they are given to the relatives and other favourites of him. Village opens for cows are acquired by the Jahagirdar and also acquired and made the private property of the State. In this way, hundreds and thousands of acres of lands are acquired by him. He had a Sheri (Government) land of thirty acres formerly, but within forty seven years of his career, he has come to acquire about one thousand six hundred acres of land by such acquisitions. Many lands are acquired by him as lapsed property even though their heirs were still alive. Some private properties were also acquired by the Jahagirdar and those lands by force joined as Sheri lands. In Ajara taluka, there are hundreds of acres of lands of the rayats which were removed from

cultivation and turned in forest land. Dumal villages, Kadim Inams, Devasthan, Dharmadaya, etc., are taken by the Jahagirdar. So we thought all such lands will be inquired into and realised. We will not be benefited by the work of the said Committee".²⁵

On receipt of this petition, the Resident at Kolhapur wrote separately to the Prime Minister of Kolhapur informing him about the complaints stated in the petition and also advised him to enquire into these complaints and to seek an explanation from the jahagirdar. He particularly wanted to know as to how the income and the land holdings of the jahagirdar had grown so fast after 1891, The jahagirdars sheri lands were merely thirty acres in 1891 which had grown to one thousand and six hundred acres by 1939, an increase of more than fifty three fold.

The Prime Minister accordingly sought an explanation from the Jahagirdar and the Jahagirdar was hard put to furnish it. He, therefore, backed down in his confrontation with the subjects; still, he did not give substantial relief to them.

Problem of Manerajuri and Arag :

The subjects of the Jahagir were struggling for their rights and justice with the Jahagirdar. In the year 1940-41, because of inadequate rainfall, there were no crops in the villages of Manerajuri and Arag and the peasants there were reduced to penury. They did not have the capacity to pay their land revenue to the Jahagirdar. The Ichalkaranji Praja Sangh therefore submitted a petition to the Jahagirdar on 1 January, 1941,

“Due to inadequate rains this year, the peasants in the villages of Manerajuri and Arag have no capacity at all to pay their land revenue. Under these circumstances, the poor peasants in these villages may be exempted from the payment of the land revenue this year. The collection of land revenue will begin from 10 January, 1941, hence the necessary ordinance for exemption may be issued prior to it. Also, the land revenue in other villages may be collected according to the Anewari (percentage of crop yield)”.²⁶

The Ichalkaranji Praja Sangh consistently attempted to air the grievances of the subjects. When the office bearers of the Sangh desired to meet the Jahagirdar personally, he advised them to meet his principal official (Karbhari). Accordingly, the office bearers met the official on 14 January, 1941, but his response to the demands of the subjects was not very encouraging. On 15.1.1941, the Praja Sangh petitioned to the Maharani Tarabai of Kolhapur with its grievances and also requested for an audience.

The ultimate benefit of Praja Sangh's correspondence with Maharani Tarabai was that on 28 January, 1941, the Jahagirdar issued notification pertaining to the demands of the subjects. It read;

“The collection of half the land revenue in Manerajuri village has been stayed because of inadequate crop yield. Famine relief works have also been started in the village. Also, until the proclamation of the peasants' debt redemption act, care is being taken that the peasants do not suffer due to civil suits for recovery. Further, the Factories Act, the Municipal Act, and the Panchayat Act promulgated shortly.

Likewise, the issue of reduction in land revenue will be considered shortly.”²⁷

When the president of the Praja Sangh realised that the response of the jahagirdar was not very encouraging, he sent yet another petition on 15 January, 1941 attaching therewith the copies of the petition dated 1 January, 1941 and 10 January, 1941, to the Prime Minister of Kolhapur, in which he reiterated the grievances of the subjects. The Prime Minister sent a letter to the jahagirdar on 6 January, 1941 mentioning therein the grievances and complaints of the subjects and advising him to redress these. The demands in the Praja Sangh's petition were as under:

“Statements of remission regarding inam lands be prepared immediately. During famine time people should be given employment and also loans should be advanced to the farmers without charging any interest. Ordinances (vat-hukums), rules and laws regarding heirship, enquiry in force in the darbar should be introduced in the jahagir”.²⁸

Satyagraha movement :

In response to the nine point petition submitted by the Praja Sangh to the jahagirdar, a notification dated 28 January, 1941 was released under the signature of the jahagirdar's karbhari, which was found to be totally discouraging. The general impression was that against the subjects' prayer for bread, the jahagirdar had given them stones. By pointing a finger towards Kolhapur darabar, the jahagirdar wanted to shirk off his responsibility for the just demands of subjects. Finally in its meeting held on 1 January, 1941, the Praja Sangh's working committee decided to abandon the moderate means of petitions and prayers and resort to the weapon of 'satyagraha'.

The Praja Sangh felt that none of their petitions were considered sympathetically either by the Jahagirdar, the Kolhapur Darbar or the British Resident at Kolhapur. Hence, it resolved to offer a public Satyagraha at Ichalkaranji on the morning of Monday, the 24 February, 1941. The public appeal issued by D.T.Chivate, president of the Praja Sangh, on 9February,1941 also stated that the Satyagraha would be offered in a peaceful and non-violent manner

and that the subjects should participate in it in large numbers. ²⁹

The appeal had also explained the background and nature of the proposed Satyagraha. It stated that the Satyagraha was in protest against the excessive taxes imposed on the citizens by the Ichalkaranji Town Municipality. In fact, the Jahagirdar had enhanced the municipal taxes without the consent of the Kolhapur Darbar. The Praja Sangh had planned to offer the Satyagraha with a contingent of two hundred Satyagrahis and that it would continue till the enhanced municipal taxes were withdrawn. If the Jahagirdar ignored the Satyagraha, a march would be taken to the Residency at Kolhapur and a Satyagraha would be offered there until the demands were met. ³⁰

The meeting of the Praja Sangh held on 24 January, 1941 decided to offer the Satyagraha for a period of five days in front of the Jahagirdar's palace at Ichalkaranji and then to continue it in front of the Residency at Kolhapur.

Jahagirdar's notification of 28 January, 1941 actually fuelled the discontent among the subjects and on 9 February, 1941, the Praja Sangh announced a Satyagraha. Prime Minister of Kolhapur Dadasaheb Surve very promptly, on 11-2-1941, granted audience to Tamhankar, Karbhari, Rajawade, Secretary, of the

Ichalkaranji Jahagirdar; D.T.Chivate, N.T.Bugad, Shivgonda Patil, S.A.Bhoje, Atmaram Patil, office bearers of the Praja Sangh, as well as Shirgurkar-Patil, the president of the Kolhapur State Congress, with a view to avert the Satyagraha of the Praja Sangh. A total of nine demands were discussed; these were - deferrment and exemption of land revenue, crop assessment (Anewari) method, famine relief works, Tagai and monetary assistance to the peasants, reduction in land assessment (Khand), nomination of people's representatives debt redemption of cultivators, promulgation of the Factories' Act and a responsible government. Although the demands were discussed extensively, nothing concrete came out of it.³¹

In view of the repeated petitions of the peasants and the loss of crops due to inadequate rains in Ichalkaranji Jahagir, the Prime Minister of Kolhapur, on 20 February, 1941, wrote to the District Officer, South Zone of Karveer Ilaka,

“Due to failure of rains, famine conditions prevail in a few villages of Ichalkaranji taluka of Ichalkaranji jahagir, the subjects there have started an agitation against the jahagirdar and also have petitioned the darbar to start

famine relief works. You are to personally visit the concerned villages for collecting the intelligence and submit your detailed report by the nightfall of 21 February, 1941.”³²

As instructed in the confidential letter of the Prime Minister of Kolhapur on 21 February, 1941, the district officer, south zone of Karveer Ilakha, on the pretext of a hunting campaign, visited the areas around Ichalkaranji town, and Shiradwad, Lat etc. villages for inspecting the crops, discussed the conditions with the people there without arousing their suspicion and submitted his report to the Prime Minister the same night. The report briefly stated;

“In the concerned villages, Jawar and Tobacco are the main crops, while sugarcane, cotton and groundnut are the secondary crops. The yield of Jawar is average, but the tobacco crop is affected badly. Among the secondary crops, cotton has fared badly, while the yields of other crops are average. The overall situation is not satisfactory, but certainly the famine conditions do not prevail. Peasants generally are

expecting an exemption in the land revenue.”³³

Inspite of the crop condition as stated above, the cause of discontent in Ichalkaranji Jahagir possibly were not related to it. Their main grievance was about the non promulgation of the peasants debt Redemption Act. Another significant grievance was the hurdles in seeking legal redress against unjust acts of jahagir administration. Jahagir officials were directly and indirectly vindictive against aggrieved persons seeking redress against such injustices.³⁴

On receiving the above report, the Prime Minister of Kolhapur advised the Jahagirdar to be moderate in his dealings with the subjects. He was also advised as regards reducing the discontent of the subjects and averting the Satyagraha planned on 24 February, 1941. Accordingly, the Karbhari of the Jahagir gave certain assurances to the Praja Sangh, in return for a promise of postponing the planned Satyagraha.

In view of the Praja Sangh's public appeal and its plan to offer a Satyagraha, the Karbhari of Ichalkaranji Jahagir held discussions with the Prime Minister of Kolhapur and some of the office bearers of the Praja Sangh on 18 February, 1941. On 23 February, 1941, Karabhari of Ichalkaranji jahagir along

with some other officials of the Jahagir, gave certain written and verbal assurances to the Praja Sangh so as to avert the Satyagraha planned on 24 February, 1941. D. T. Chivate, president of the Praja Sangh, on 3 March, 1941 requested the Karbhari of Ichalkaranji Jahagir that the assurances given be complied by 10 March, 1941. A brief summary of the discussions regarding the Praja Sangh's demands may be offered as follows,

"In connection with the demand about the loss that the agriculturists are required to suffer owing to untimely rain and absence of crops, an attempt has been made to make us believe that the system of Anewari could not be lawfully introduced as it was not in practice in Darbar limits. It is necessary that postponement and remission at least for this year should be granted in proportion after examining the condition of crops in each village. Moreover, famine relief work should be started in every village. The tenants should get remission".³⁵

D.T.Chivate's letter dated 3 March,1941 was replied by the Karbhari of Ichalkaranji Jahagir on 8 March,1941 as follows:

"The system of Anewari is not introduced here as it is not in practice in Kolhapur State. It has been already stated in the notification about the postponement of land revenue assessment. It is not necessary to give any more concessions than what are given already. Famine relief works have been started in Manerajuri village. It is not necessary to start famine works in other villages. Tagai will be granted in order to help the agriculturists buy seeds and improve lands. The Jahagir officials cannot put their moral influence upon private owners of the lands to give remissions in their rents, because this question is between the landlords and the tenants".³⁶

At the same time, even while negotiations between the Praja Sangh and the Jahagir administration were in progress, some administrative

officials of Ichalakaranji began maligning the Sangh's leaders to tarnish their public image. Rumours began to spread alleging Kolhapur Darbar's instigation behind the Praja Sangh's movement in Ichalkaranji Jahagir. D.T.Chivate, president of the Praja Sangh, therefore, presented an application to the Prime Minister of Kolhapur on 18.3.1941, in which he described in detail the situation as under:

"The Jahagir's administrative officials are trying their best to demolish the existence of the Praja Sangh. They are also trying to give a nasty twist to our organized and just movement. These conspiracies are planned in G.D.Kulkarni's house. G.D.Kulkarni (alias Khebudkar), through his agents, is trying to raise a revolt in the Jahagir through a malafide propaganda in newspapers. In his view, our organization's loyalty and respect towards the Darbar is an act of sedition. We pray you to verify the facts and give justice to us".³⁷

On 19.3.1941, D.T.Chivate wrote to the Prime Minister of Kolhapur, informing him that,

"The conspiracies and frauds of the officials of Jahagir. He wrote that, it was the officials of the Jahagir who displayed the threat to G.D. Kulkarni to quit Ichalkaranji within a month or face the consequences. This threat was shown to the police and a report thereof was recorded. The allegation however was made on the members of Praja Sangh. They also prepared false affidavits that they threaten the people who did not participate in their marches. In brief, the officials created discontent in the Jahagir by defaming the Praja Sangh and its leaders. The matter may be considered expeditiously".³⁸

With reference to these two letters dated 18 March, 1941 and 19 March, 1941, the Prime Minister of Kolhapur wrote to the Jahagirdar^{on} 31 March, 1941, asking for his explanation. But, despite its petitions to the Kolhapur Darbar and to the Resident at Kolhapur, the injustice against Praja Sangh were not redressed. It, therefore, became aggressive and decided to take

up march and Satyagraha for pressing its just demands and redressing the injustices. Also, the different assurances and promises given to the subjects by the Kolhapur Darbar and the Ichalkaranji Jahagir administration were not being fulfilled. Hence, in its meeting held on 6 April, 1941 at Ichalkaranji, Praja Sangh declared that a march would be arranged on 14 April, 1941 first to the Jahagirdar, and if he failed to respond favourably, the march would then proceed either to Kolhapur Darbar or to the British Resident. A total of 632 Sangh workers would participate in the march, of whom 100 would offer a Satyagraha. ³⁹

On 9.4.1941, the Karbhari of Ichalkaranji Jahagir submitted a report of the Praja Sangh's meeting held on 6.4.1941 to the Prime Minister of Kolhapur as under:

"I have to inform you that in a meeting held by the Praja Sangh on 6 April, 1941, to announce the decision of the working committee, D.T.Chivate, the President of the Praja Sangh, said that in order to get their demands satisfied, they would go in a Morcha first to Shrimant Babasaheb and if he did not grant them, they would go in a Morcha to Kolhapur Darbar and then to the

British Government. He said that they would bring more than 600 persons as announced in the meeting, of whom 100 men would observe Satyagraha till death".⁴⁰

The conflict between the Praja Sangh and the Jahagirdar went on increasing day by day and the Praja Sangh leaders started openly criticizing Jahagir administration. In the public meeting on 23.4.1941, Sangh's leaders D.T.Chivate and N.T.Bugad described the inefficiency of the administration. D.T.Chivate also declared that the Sangh's working committee has been abolished and in its place, a defence committee has been constituted. He also described the injustices of the Ichalkaranji and Vishalgad Jahagirdars and also attacked the Police department in the Jahagir,

"The Police Department of this place is shameless and incompetent. The Police, in order to continue in their services, have to work as procurers. The Police have to put the wives of others under the Raosaheb in order to secure his favours. We will prove this by evidence and, if necessary, we are

prepared to bring these women before the Court as witnesses".⁴¹

D.T.Chivate declared that the Jahagirdar and the administrative officials were inefficient and advised the citizen of Ichalkaranji Town not to pay municipal taxes until all the municipal councillors were publicly nominated, Further he said,

"Shrimant Babasaheb Ghorpade and the officers here have no brains. If they had, they would have granted us our demands".⁴²

In this meeting of the Praja Sangh, N.T.Bugad also criticized the rule of Jahagirdar. He said,

"Shrimant Babasaheb has lost all morality because he is influenced by a ghost. The public must bury down this ghost. Shrimant is haunted by a ghost. So, the Satyagraha will not be taken back unless our demands are fulfilled".⁴³

**Declare the Praja Sangh unlawful - Babasaheb
pleads to Kolhapur :**

Earlier the agitation began by the Praja Sangh had been partly successful and the Jahagir administration had granted some of the demands of the Praja Sangh promised to grant the remaining. But as the administration began to procrastinate, the president of the Praja Sangh, in his application dated 5 May, 1941 addressed to the Prime Minister of Kolhapur, and expressed his strong displeasure about the tactics of administrative officials. On 21 May, 1941, the Prime Minister of Kolhapur wrote to the Jahagirdar asking for his report on the fulfilment of the demands of the Praja Sangh and of the famine relief work in the Jahagir.

In response, the Jahagir office wrote a detailed letter to the Prime Minister on 22 May, 1941. The letter took strong exceptions to the agitation being fomented by the Praja Sangh and also its style of functioning. The letter went on explaining as to how the Praja Sangh is an unlawful organization and how it has created hurdles in the Jahagir administration. The letter gave detailed descriptions of the agitations, morchas and Satyagrahas that the Praja Sangh had propelled within the Jahagir since its inception. The letter further alleged that the

speeches of the Sangh's leaders during this period were meant to incite the subjects against the Jahagirdar and the Kolhapur Darbar. The letter even reproduced a few extracts from the speeches as a proof. In conclusion, the Jahagirdar expressed his strong displeasure against the Praja Sangh and prayed that it be dissolved.

“The activities of the Praja Sangh have perhaps been more unlawful and more mischievous than those of Kolhapur Praja Parishad, which was declared ‘unlawful’ by the Darbar by its Notification no.12 dated 29 March, 1939. Similar action has been rendered even more necessary in the case of the Ichalkaranji Jahagir Praja Sangh. I have, therefore, the honour to request you to declare the Ichalkaranji Praja Sangh (Association) unlawful under Section 16 of the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, so as to effectively put a stop to its unlawful activities” .⁴⁴

While Kolhapur Darbar and Ichalkaranji Jahagir administration were trying to put a ban on the

activities of the Praja Sangh, the leaders of the Praja Sangh were steadfastly pursuing the objectives of the Praja Sangh. Finally, the Jahagir administration took up the matter directly with the Darbar. In its letter dated 14 June, 1941, the Jahagir administration wrote to the Darbar:

“The Praja Sangh has been carrying on mischievous propaganda in favour of non-payment of municipality taxes, as a result of which, the collection of these taxes has come to a standstill. In fact, the municipality is now compelled to issue notices for the recovery of the house tax due for the year 1940-41 and to have them served on the defaulters. While these steps are being taken by the municipality for the recovery of its dues, Mr. Chivate referred to this subject in the course of his speech in a public meeting held at Ichalkaranji on 30 May, 1941. He told that the municipality has no authority to attach property. According to him, notices would not be issued until the municipality had become a completely elected body. In short, Praja Sangh has

created obstacles in the way of Jahagir and municipal officers". ⁴⁵

Externment of D.T.Chivate:

After writing this letter about D.T.Chivate's activities, the Jahagir administration wrote yet another letter to the Prime Minister of Kolhapur on 17 June, 1941 suggesting about the deportation of D.T.Chivate:

"The Jahagirdar of Ichalkaranji asked the Prime Minister that Kolhapur Government may be pleased to make an order either under Section 26(a) of the Defence of India Rules or under any other legislative enactment that may be applicable directing the removal of Mr.D.T.Chivate from the territories of the State. Mr.Chivate is a dictator of Praja Sangh now. He delivered rabid speeches. He has thrown mud at Kolhapur and British Governments also. I am, therefore, strongly of the opinion that his deportation from the

State at earliest possible moment is desirable in the public interest".⁴⁶

But this letter was deficient in several respects hence, Kolhapur Darbar, in its letter dated 24 June, 1941, sought further clarification from the Jahagirdar. The Jahagir's letter had only sought the deportation of D.T.Chivate on the basis of his utterances against the Jahagirdar, but had not furnished full details of him to the Darbar, for example, there was no information available about the birth place or the domicility of D.T.Chivate. The Darbar therefore informed the Jahagirdar that further actions would be possible only after knowing all the factual details about D.T.Chivate. Meanwhile, Kolhapur Darbar enquired with the Resident at Kolhapur on 21 June, 1941 about the dissolution of Ichalkaranji Praja Sangh and the deportation of D.T.Chivate. Resident of Kolhapur replied on 26 June, 1941 that,

"Since it cannot be conclusively shown that Mr.Chivate has acquired the status of a Kolhapur subject, I feel that nothing should come in the way of taking the necessary action under Sections 26(1), 26(1)(a) of the Defence

of India Rules. From a political point of view of the Council of Administration and I, am in complete agreement that his past activities have been prejudicial to the maintenance of law and order. I would, therefore, ask you unless there are any further technical difficulties, to take steps to issue an order of externment against Mr.Chivate, without any further delay and also to pass an order declaring the Praja Sangh in Ichalkaranji as unlawful by a notification in the next issue of the State Gazette". ⁴⁷

As the complaints of the Ichalkaranji Jahagir administration regarding the thoughts and activities of D.T.Chivate, the Prime Minister, by his memorandum no.766 dated 28 June,1941, sought the personal information of D.T.Chivate, who in his letter dated 2 July,1941, addressed to the Prime Minister clarified his status as a subject (citizen) of Ichalkaranji:

"I am a resident of Ichalkaranji Jahagir since 1933 and am the proprietor of 'Chandrakala Bhandi Stores' which was opened in 1934. In 1935, I secured a contract for five years at rupees 600/- per annum from the Ichalkaranji Municipality. In 1937, I opened a newspaper agency shop under the title 'Ichalkaranji Information Bureau'. I pay a monthly rent of rupees 9/- and am a voting member of the municipal committee. I am a share-holder and chairman of 'The Urban Co-operative Credit Society Limited' and also a member of 'Apte Vachan Mandir'. I am also the special organizer for Ichalkaranji Jahagir of an insurance company in Bombay. Although I was born in Miraj State, I am a permanent resident of Kolhapur State, to which I am loyal, and widened the scope of my activities in Ichalkaranji Jahagir. This would convince you that I am subject of Kolhapur State". ⁴⁸

Although D.T.Chivate had clarified his citizen status and submitted certain documents in support of it, the Prime Minister of Kolhapur felt it necessary to seek legal advice in the matter. Hence, he sent Chivate's letter to the State's Legal Remembrance on 3 July, 1941 and asked him to advise as to whether D.T.Chivate could be the subject of Kolhapur State. The Legal Remembrance examined D.T.Chivate's explanatory letter and the documents attached therewith and tendered his legal opinion to the Prime Minister of Kolhapur on 4 July, 1941 as under :

“Examined Shri.Chivate's explanation and the supporting documents. The main question in the matter is whether or not Shri.Chivate is a subject of Kolhapur State. There is no general legislation about the subjects of Kolhapur State. According to the law prevailing in the British Territories, a person (1) who was born in the British Dominion, (2) who was born outside the British Dominion but whose father was a British Subject at the time of his birth, (3) who has secured a certificate under the Naturalization Act, may be termed as a 'subject'. If Shri.Chivate's case is to be

decided against the above norms, he was not born in Karveer area but was born in Miraj State, as has been admitted by him in his explanation. For securing a certificate under Naturalization Act, earlier the conditions were minimum five years residence and good conduct. According to Shri.Chivate's explanation he is residing at Ichalkaranji for more than five years, but his conduct, from his political activities, does not appear to be good. Considering these facts in their totality, the said Shri.Chivate may not be called the subject of Kolhapur State with certainty. Shri.Chivate himself, in his explanation, has not drawn the conclusion that he is a subject of Kolhapur State, nor can such a conclusion be drawn. Under these circumstances, it is not necessary that he be called a subject of Kolhapur State. Also, there is no provision for appeal or revision of the order passed under Section 26(1)(a) of the Defence of India Rules". ⁴⁹

The Notification No.68(10 July,1941):

Ichalkaranji Jahagir administration, Kolhapur Darbar and the Kolhapur Resident's office discussed at length the issues of banning the Ichalkaranji Praja Sangh and the externment of its leader D.T.Chivate. In the end, Kolhapur Darbar, its Notification no.68, declared Ichalkaranji Praja Sangh as an unlawful, hence banned, organization. The Notification reads as under:

“Whereas it has been brought to the notice of the Executive Council of the State that an association ‘Ichalkaranji Jahagir Praja Sangh’ has been established by certain people and is strongly represented by the Jahagirdar of Ichalkaranji with credible as now carrying on through four of its members propaganda of a subversive and inflammatory character against the Jahagir authorities. Now, therefore, the Executive Council of the State is pleased under Section 16 of the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act of 1908 to declare and hereby declare the said association or body named Ichalkaranji

Jahagir Praja Sangh to be unlawful with effect from the date of publication of this Notification (i.e. dated 10 July, 1941)". ⁵⁰

On the same day, another Notification issued by the Legislative Department of Kolhapur Darbar declared the removal of D.T.Chivate as under:

“Whereas it has been brought to the notice of the Government of Kolhapur that D.T.Chivate of Miraj, now residing at Ichalkaranji, has been delivering speeches and conducting activities thereby acting in a manner prejudicial to public order in the Ichalkaranji Jahagir and whereas, the Government of Kolhapur is satisfied that with a view of preventing him from so acting, it is necessary to make an order under clause (a) of sub-rule (I) of rule 26 of the Defence of India Rules as applied to the Kolhapur. Now, therefore, the Government of Kolhapur is pleased to direct D.T.Chivate of Miraj, now residing at Ichalkaranji, to remove

himself from the Kolhapur State within twelve hours of the receipt of the notice this order without holding or taking part in any meeting, procession and without making or taking part in any demonstration by the route leading from Ichalkaranji via Jaysingpur to Sangli and prohibit from return to the Kolhapur State".⁵¹

(IV) CONCLUSION:

The freedom movement in the Ichalkaranji covers the formative stage from 1930 to 1941. The main reason for the origin and development of the freedom movement was the grievances of cultivators, regarding the amount of revenue that they were to required to pay to the Jahagirdar, who had raised it by twenty one percent in the Ajara taluka of the jahagir. Consequently the agitation against the jahagirdar was started in the Ajara taluka.

The agitation in Ajara taluka of the jahagir was conducted in the beginning without any organisation. There was therefore need of an organisation which was founded on 26 January, 1939 at Ichalkaranji, it was

named as 'Ichalkaranji Jahagir Praja Sangh'. With the foundation of the Sangh the activities of the people in the jahagir became vigorous. The Sangh adopted the method of peaceful negotiations with the jahagirdar and the Kolhapur darbar.

As the agitation of the Sangh became intense the jahagirdar recommended that the Sangh be declared unlawful and its main leader D.T.Chivate be externed from the territory of Kolhapur state. After some inquiries both the demands were accepted by the Kolhapur government which were expressed through two declarations of 10 July, 1941. The very fact that the Narayanrao Babasaheb Ghorpade pleaded for both the demands with the Kolhapur state, shows the extent to which the agitations in the Ichalkaranji Jahagir was becoming unbearable to Babasaheb Ghorpade.

With the demise of Babasaheb Ghorpade in December, 1943, the Ichalkaranji jahagir lost not only the jahagirdar, but it was embroiled in the issue of succession to the deceased Babasaheb Ghorpade. The administrative setup had no time and energy left to oppose the freedom movement. Ironically enough the freedom movement had also lost its momentum. There is no record in contemporary sources of any movements and agitations undertaken by the Sangh. On 15 August, 1947 India gained independence from the

British rule and Ichalkaranji jahagir, alongwith Kolhapur state was merged in the Indian Republic on 1 March 1949.

NOTES

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5. *Ibid*, p.100
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7. Patwardhan V.A., *op-cit*, p.17
8. *Ibid*, p.17
9. *Ibid*, p.233
10. *Ibid*, p.245
11. Kolhapur Archives, (hereafter K.A.), "Ichalkaranji File No.98", p.327
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15. *Ibid*, p.13
16. K.A., "Ichalkaranji File No.53", p.17
17. K.A., "Ichalkaranji File No.134", p.264
18. *Ibid*, p.265
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20. *Ibid*, p.58
21. *Ibid*, p.173
22. K.A., "Ichalkaranji File No.26", pp.139,140
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27. *Ibid*, p.64
28. *Ibid*, pp.7,8
29. *Ibid*, p.8
30. K.A., "Ichalkaranji File No.91", p.428
31. K.A., "Ichalkaranji File No.54", p.227
32. K.A., "Ichalkaranji File No.25", pp.9,10
33. *Ibid*, p.11
34. *Ibid*, p.11
35. *Ibid*, pp.17 to 21
36. *Ibid*, p.22
37. K.A., "Ichalkaranji File No.53", pp.210,211
38. *Ibid*, p.212
39. K.A., "Ichalkaranji File No.25", p.97
40. *Ibid*, p.56
41. *Ibid*, p.84
42. *Ibid*, p.84
43. *Ibid*, p.85
44. K.A., "Ichalkaranji File No.53", p.55

45. K.A., "Ichalkaranji File No.25", p.719
46. *Ibid*, pp.79,80
47. K.A., "Ichalkaranji File No.53", p.95
48. K.A., "Ichalkaranji File No.24", p.11
49. *Ibid*, pp.14,15
50. K.A., "Ichalkaranji File No.53", p.125
51. *Ibid*, p.127

CHAPTER VII

FREEDOM MOVEMENT IN ICHALKARANJI JAHAGIR : SECOND PHASE

CHAPTER VII

FREEDOM MOVEMENT IN ICHALKARANJI

JAHAGIR : SECOND PHASE

(I) INTRODUCTION :

We have already seen that by two separate notifications by 10 July, 1941, the Ichalkaranji jahagir Praja Sangh was declared unlawful and D.T.Chivate, the main leader of Praja Sangh was removed from the Kolhapur state. He was ordered to proceed to Sangh via Jaysingpur from Ichalkaranji, without in any way taking part in any demonstration.

(II) FREEDOM MOVEMENT AFTER 10 JULY, 1941 :

The notifications pertaining the declaration of Ichalkaranji Jahagir Praja Sangh as an unlawful assembly and the externment of D.T.Chivate from Kolhapur State were published in the Kolhapur Government Gazette dated 10.7.1941. On 15.7.1941, D.T.Chivate applied from Miraj to the Kolhapur that both the above notifications have done grave injustice to him and that the externment notice served on him be withdrawn. In his application, he states:

“As the organization of which I was president or member has been declared unlawful, I have no more association left with it. Also, the Jahagirdar of Ichalkaranji had complained about my activities in his Jahagir only. Hence, my externment from whole of the karveer Sansthan (Ilakha) is extremely unjust. In view of my business and personal activities, at the most, I should have been prevented from participating in public activities. My externment is tantamount to preventing me from serving the Kolhapur State. Taking into consideration the above, I pray that the deportation notice served on me be withdrawn and that I may be allowed to enter Karveer Ilakha (including the Jahagir) for business and commercial activities”.¹

Kolhapur Darbar sent D.T.Chivate's application to its Legal Remembrance, who submitted his opinion to the Darbar on 1.8.1941 as follows:

“In the application, Mr.Chivate requests the Darbar to withdraw the notice issued against him, requiring him to remove himself from the Kolhapur State and to allow him to enter the State, including the Jahagir, to continue in his occupation there. But as has already been stated in this office No.11 dated

30.6.1941 that there is no provision in the Defence of India Rules in force in the State to withdraw the notice issued under Rule 26 of the Defence of India Rules".²

In spite of declaring Ichalkaranji Praja Sangh as unlawful and expelling its president D.T.Chivate from Kolhapur State, the movement of the Sangh did not cease but became more dynamic. Shri.Balkrishna Laxman Buchade took over as its dictator in place of D.T.Chivate. On 31.7.1941, he spoke to the Praja Sangh workers in front of the Sangh's office at Ichalkaranji. An extract from the speech reads,

"We have decided to offer Satyagraha from the holy day of the anniversary of Lokmanya Tilak till the Ichalkaranji Jahagir Praja Sangh is again declared to be lawful. Ichalkaranji Jahagir Praja Sangh is our original institution. The first dictator of Praja Sangh Mr.Chivate has been deported by a very revengeful attitude and Narayan Bugad, the propaganda chief, has been imprisoned. Our goal is that the people of Ichalkaranji should get proper and

responsible government. Our power being based on the principles of truth, justice and non-violence. We stand under the flag of the Praja Sangh, which is loyal and constitutional". ³

Although D.T.Chivate was externed, he was rendering guidance to Praja Sangh workers from outside Kolhapur State boundary. One such meeting of the Sangh was held at Manakapur in Chikkodi Taluka on 11.8.1941, in which D.T.Chivate, Shivgonda Patil, Shankar Telsinge and Shankar Kanthe spoke. A report of this meeting was submitted by the Karbhari of Ichalkaranji Jahagir to the Prime Minister of Kolhapur in his letter dated 13.8.1941:

"It will be seen from Mr.D.T.Chivate's speech that there has been no change in his attitude since his externment. He continues to criticise the Jahagir and Kolhapur Darbar". ⁴

Moreover, the Karbhari of Ichalkaranji Jahagir sent the extracts from the speeches delivered in the meeting held at Manakapur on 11.8.1941.

Public Appeal :

The Praja Sangh workers were striving hard for lifting of the ban on their organization and withdrawal of the deportation order served on D.T.Chivate. They had accordingly planned to take up measures such as Satyagraha and civil disobedience. Around this time, a group of 33 people in Ichalkaranji town and Lat, Rangoli, Jangamwadi, Shirdhon villages issued the following public appeal to the subjects of the Jagir:

“As the Ichalkaranji Jahagir Praja Sangh was carrying on mischievous and undesirable activities in the Jahagir, it had been declared illegal by the Darbar. But some people have tried disobedience of law in order to get the Praja Sangha legalized. The movement which is going on in Ichalkaranji today is not to get any specific grievance satisfied but is only carried on with the aim of regenerating an institution which has been declared illegal”.⁵

It is seen from the above public appeal that some people in Ichalkaranji were wary of the methods and functioning of the Praja Sangh, whose activities they could not bear with. On the contrary, they were happy

with the Jahagir administration. It means that either the subjects of Ichalkaranji Jahagir were tired of the ongoing conflict between the Jahagir administration and the Praja Sangh or they were demoralized after the banning of the Praja Sangh and the externment of D.T.Chivate. It is also likely that the Jahagir administration was able to raise a front of certain individuals against the Praja Sangh leaders from within the organization. Nevertheless, it was quite surprising that objections could be raised against the Praja Sangh's functioning or against its leaders.

Satyagraha Movement :

The Praja Sangh began its Satyagraha from 5.9.1941 and submitted a petition containing eleven demands to the Jahagir administration. The Satyagrahis also declared that the Satyagraha would continue until all the demands were met. About 500 persons participated in the Satyagraha. The Jahagir administration sent its letter dated 6.9.1941 to the Prime Minister of Kolhapur to appraise him of the ongoing Satyagraha and the demands of the Satyagrahis. The Darbar appointed its officer Khan Bahadur Sadri to investigate the matter. He visited Ichalkaranji on 11.9.1941 and conducted enquiries

about the leaders of the Satyagrahis and their demands. The following report of the investigation was submitted by the Jahagir administration to the Prime Minister of Kolhapur on 12.9.1941:

“Yesterday noon, Khan Bahadur Sadri came here and made enquiries about the situation here. He had talks with officers and the leaders of the Satyagrahis. They presented him with a list of eleven demands. Most of these demands are new ones and are quite different from those that were made at the time when the mass satyagraha was offered on the 5th September, 1941. Last night, a further batch of Satyagrahis arrived. They have announced that another batch is also coming today. This noon Khan Bahadur Sadri again came here with Raosaheb Phansalkar and saw the situation. He enquired about their demands. Their chief demands are that the ban on Praja Sangh and Mr.Chivate should be at once removed. These demands are not possible for the Jahagir to grant”.⁶

The Jahagir administration, on its own, was also trying for the withdrawal of the Satyagraha. In an effort in this direction, K.V.Tamhankar, the Karbhari of Ichalkaranji Jahagir, issued a notification appealing to the Satyagrahis to withdraw their agitation. The notification briefly stated:

“Satyagraha should be withdrawn and Satyagrahis should disperse. Meherban Jahagirdar Saheb assures that no victimization will take place after the Satyagraha is withdrawn”.⁷

As a part of the agitation, Shirgurkar-Patil called a public meeting at Kabnur on 14.1.1941 at 3.00 P.M., together with a plan for taking a Morcha to Kolhapur Darbar after the meeting. The Morcha would walk all the way to Kolhapur and would be led by Shankar Telsinge. K.V.Tamhankar, the Karbhari of Ichalkaranji conveyed the intelligence concerning the proposed meeting and the Morcha to Kolhapur Darbar on 14 January, 1941:

“I am to inform you that some two hundred people, mostly mill-hands, intend to lead a Morcha to Kolhapur, headed by Shankar Telsinge of Ichalkaranji. It is reported that a meeting is

called by Mr.Shirgurkar-Patil today (14 September,1941) at about 3.00 P.M. at Kabnur. It is further learnt that after the conclusion of the meeting, they propose to go on foot to Kolhapur". ⁸

Notification of 13 September 1941 :

With reference to the demands put forward by the Satyagrahis at Ichalkaranji as a condition precedent to the withdrawal by them of the Satyagraha, they were informed after consultation with the Resident at Kolhapur and the Deccan States in the matter and under the Darbar's authority as follows. The notification was issued on 13 September,1941.

"The ban on the Praja Sangh is not to be lifted. The externment order against Mr.D.T.Chivate is not to be cancelled. The grievances of the Satyagrahis should, after the withdrawal of the Satyagraha,be submitted constitutionally by them to the Jahagirdar through a deputation or committee chosen by them for the purpose. This deputation, however, is not to include those individuals who have been sentenced to

imprisonment or against whom criminal warrants have been issued. The grievances so put will all be considered with due sympathy and disposed of as speedily as may be practicable. As regards the allegation made by Mr. Shivgonda Patil on 9 September, 1941 before the Prime Minister, Kolhapur, regarding the procuring of a woman for immoral purposes by a Jahagir officer as an inducement concerning a case before the official, due enquiry will be made and necessary action taken by the Jahagirdar on a regular approach being made to it for the purpose by a party prepared to make out the case".⁹

The above notification was read out and explained by Khan Bahadur N.N. Sadri, the Deputy Inspector General of Police, Kolhapur State, as ordered by the Executive Council of the State on 13 September, 1941.

The above notification was published for the information of the general public on the matter being approved by the State Executive Council under its Resolution PF No. 676 dated 18 September, 1941 on 24 September, 1941.

The Meeting of the Citizens(14 September,1941):

A meeting of the citizen was held at Ichalkaranji on 14 September,1941 congratulating the Resident at Kolhapur, the Kolhapur Darbar and the Jahagirdar for the prompt action taken in respect of the Satyagraha movement at Ichalkaranji. The president of this meeting was Mr.Vaman Keshav Sathe. In this meeting, the following resolution was passed:

“For many days now, an organization named ‘Prajā Sangh’ was conducting an illegal agitation in Ichalkaranji Jahagir. For suppressing it, the Karveer Darbar by its notification dated 10 July,1941, declared the Praja Sangh as an illegal organization and also imposed restrictions on some of its members. Thereafter, the proponents of the agitation, for the purpose of securing removal of these restrictions and of securing certain improper demands, adopted the means of a sit-in Satyagraha which by itself was unrealistic and illegal. As a result, day-by-day, the citizens of Ichalkaranji town were becoming apprehensive about the public peace and security. The Kolhapur

Darbar, on the efforts of Jahagirdar Saheb, after discussing the sit-in Satyagraha agitation and its illegal demands with the Resident at Kolhapur, declared its decision in clear terms through the Notification dated 13 September, 1941, for which this meeting heartily congratulates the Resident at Kolhapur, the Karveer Darbar and the Jahagirdar of Ichalkaranji. Also because of the timely publication of the said notification, the sit-in Satyagrahis have desisted their agitation and the apprehensions of the citizens of Ichalkaranji have subsided, thereby restoring the previous atmosphere, for which also, this meeting heartily thanks the Resident at Kolhapur, the Karveer Darbar and the Jahagirdar of Ichalkaranji". ¹⁰

Forty-three Demands:

After the declaration of the Notification dated 13 September, 1941 by the Kolhapur Darbar, a memorandum signed by some prominent persons of

Ichalkaranji Jahagir including merchants, mill-owners, Vatandars and peasants, under the leadership of Hiralal Jaluram Shedji containing forty three demands was sent to the Prime Minister and the President of the Executive Council, Kolhapur Darbar. The major demands in the memorandum were as under:

“The ban on the Praja Sangh and the externment of Shri. Chivate may be lifted soon, political prisoners like Narayan Bugad, Shivgonda Patil may be released, the enquiries may be conducted against unjust officials in the Jahagir administration, expeditious measures be initiated regarding various taxes, debt redemption act, municipal act, factories’ act, Inam enquiry committee, etc., better treatment be given to the Satyagrahis, administration officials committing excesses may be severely punished, Jahagir’s subjects may be represented on the legislative council of Kolhapur State, civic rights may be granted to the Jahagir population, local administrative officials may be appointed for the

provision drinking water, education and health services to the population". ¹¹

It was stated in clause-4 of the Notification read out by Khan Bahadur Sadri at Ichalkaranji on 13 September, 1941 that Mr. Shivgonda Patil made allegations regarding the demand made of a woman for immoral purposes by a Jahagir officer on 9 September, 1941 before the Prime Minister. In this respect, Mr. Shivgonda Patil enquired before the Second Class Magistrate, Ichalkaranji, and Shivgonda Patil answered as under:

"Raosaheb Rajawade and Tamhankar were present when I had an interview with the Prime Minister at his bungalow on 9.9.1941. At the time of discussion, when Raosaheb Rajwade and Tamhankar complained that the Praja Sangh people used abusive language in the meetings. I said that I had heard Mr. Chivate saying in a meeting that he had written evidence to the effect that a Jahagir officer had demanded the daughter of someone for deciding a case in his favour. I do not know the officer against whom these allegations were made by

Mr.Chivate, nor do I know the person whose daughter was demanded. I have mentioned only the fact which I had heard Mr.Chivate saying in my presence in one of the meetings. Since I have no information about this today, I have no grievance nor any legal complaint against any one. If I get any written or other reliable information, I shall lodge a complaint. This is my statement dated 17 September, 1941".¹²

Complaints against the Jahagir Officials :

On 3 September, 1942, between 9.40-10.30 P.M., Shri.Asharam Marwadi presided over a Praja Sangh's meeting attended by about 400-450 people was held at Narayan Chowk in Ichalkaranji. The meeting was addressed by D.T.Chivate. He presented his clear-cut thoughts about the corrupt officials in Ichalkaranji Jahagir's administration and the injustices inflicted by them on the subjects, as follows:

"In 1939, during the tenure of Col. Evans Gordon, Dadasaheb Surve had dismissed the wicked, incompetent, villainous and corrupt Baba Daruwale

(Mr.P.B.Sawant) but after both Gordon and Surve had gone, Shrimant Jahagirdar Saheb has generously appointed him again on the recommendation of some of his officers. The Jahagirdar Saheb has appointed the dismissed and incompetent officers in order to fulfill his own ambition and to make these officers dance on our breasts. We must put a stop to this in time by Satyagraha. The externment order against me was cancelled and the ban on the Praja Sangh was lifted. Babasaheb must know that the subjects of Ichalkaranji are not lambs. They are awakened to their rights. You must treat us as a father treats his children. The ban on Praja Sangh was lifted and the political prisoner were released is the result of his own mistakes and the Jahagirdar Saheb has corrected his own mistake. Now the Jahagirdar Saheb has created a new clique here. His attitude of taking revenge has not yet gone. Jahagirdar has now taken in the services of the same Khebudkar, who was

dismissed as incompetent by the Resident, Kolhapur. I am requesting you Col.O'Brien that the Jahagirdar is misleading you, take care and be alert from the Jahagirdar. If within a period of one month from today, Baba Daruwale is not removed from his post, then in that case, as an extreme step, we shall have to take a Morcha to Kolhapur".¹³

The Jahagirdar took a serious note of D.T.Chivate's speech and wrote a letter to the Prime Minister of Kolhapur, in which he stated,

"It is impossible to carry on the administration if Mr.Chivate is allowed to incite the people against the Jahagirdar and his officers and I should be fully justified in ordering his arrest at once. Because of this, you were requested in the Jahagirdar's D.O. letter dated 19th November, 1941, not to cancel Mr.Chivate's externment order nor to lift the ban on Praja Sangh. The political situation here

before Chivate's return was quite peaceful and many concessions have been granted to prevent discontent. But Chivate and the Praja Sangh are determined to create trouble again and bring the Jahagirdar and his administration into contempt. Therefore, I am calling him before me tomorrow and will warn him that any further violent speeches will lead to his arrest. You should also call him before you and warn him". ¹⁴

Although the Jahagirdar had complained to the Prime Minister of Kolhapur about D.T.Chivate together with the extracts from his speeches, Chivate's activities did not stop. In a meeting of the Praja Sangh held at Ichalkaranji on 9 January, 1942 he strongly attacked the Jahagir administration. He said in that speech,

"If a prosecution is launched against me, I am gladly willing to go to jail. But I would never fear to uphold the truth. It will never be a fault to call a thief a thief. If the unity of Praja Sangh

and its sphere of work is to be increased, it is necessary to keep the workers alive. Our organization is not meant to frighten anyone. We are agitating constitutionally to get our rights. No one should think that the workers of Praja Sangh are afraid of jail".¹⁵

Further, D.T.Chivate referring to the Golden Jubilee Ceremony of the Jahagirdar's rule to be held on 18 June,1942, severely criticized the Ruler's administration and stated that the Ruler should hand over the administration to the people. In another meeting held on 14 June,1942, Chivate, Shirgurkar and Powar delivered speeches requesting the ruler to entrust the educational department to the people and to apply all Acts to the Jahagir. Chivate had sent a list of demands requesting the Jahagirdar to fulfill them on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of his rule.

Public Meetings :

Thus, when the Praja Sangh's movement in the Jahagir was in full bloom, the Nagarik Seva Dal held a public meeting in Narayan Chowk of Ichalkaranji on 15

March, 1942 when Shri. Nanasahab Yedekar alias B.M. Patil, a resident of Tasgaon, delivered a speech on the topic of 'Sadya-Sthiti' (Contemporary Situation). Nanasahab Yedekar openly criticized the British Government. The Jahagir administration sent a report of the speech to Shri. Surve Saheb, Prime Minister of Kolhapur, on 21 March, 1942, and also suggested that Nanasahab Yedekar be prohibited from delivering further speeches, not even entering Kolhapur State. It was stated in the report that,

"The speech is in strong language against the British Government and renders the speaker liable for prosecution. The only alternative that I can suggest that an order should be passed by the Darbar, prohibiting either his entry into Kolhapur State or his making public speeches in the State".¹⁶

Shri. G.D. Kulkarni, Secretary to the Jahagirdar of Ichalkaranji, reported on 23 June, 1942, relevant extracts from the speeches made at the meeting held in Ichalkaranji on 19 June, 1942 to E.W. Perry, the Prime Minister of Kolhapur as under:

“The main speakers were Mr.Shirgurkar-Patil, Mr.D.T. Chivate, and Mr.N.S. (Shamrao) Joshi. Mr.Chivate read out about 19 demands in his speech. The administration should be in the hands of people, oppressive policy should be given up, the municipal administration should be completely handed over to the elected members, the public places should be handed over to the people, free medical aid should be given, exemption from payment of court fee, foreign officers should not be appointed, Anewari system should be introduced, etc.”. ¹⁷

Maharani Tarabai and Praja Sangh :

Mr.D.T.Chivate criticized the British Rule as well as the Jahagirdar's rule in Ichalkaranji in the meeting of Praja Sangh held at Ichalkaranji on 3 July,1942. He stated that,

“Her Highness the Maharani Tarabai of Kolhapur agrees with the demands of Praja Sangh. The Praja Sangh arranged

a warm reception in Ichalkaranji for H.H. the Maharani Tarabai of Kolhapur. It is reported that Maharani Tarabai of Kolhapur has promised to visit Ichalkaranji after 14th July, 1942. Further, it is stated that the workers of the Jahagir Praja Sangh were busy making preparations to give a warm reception to Maharani Tarabai “. ¹⁸

According to the promise given to the Praja Sangh, H.H. Maharani Tarabai visited Ichalkaranji on 29 July, 1942. Several officials and others from Kolhapur attended the function. The address reiterated several demands which the Praja Sangh had herein before made to the Jahagirdar and Kolhapur Darbar. The people of the Jahagir showed great enthusiasm in welcoming the Maharani Tarabai.

Lathi Charge at Kolhapur :

At the same time as the Ichalkaranji Praja Sangh's agitation against the Jahagir administration was going on, Kolhapur Praja Praja Parishad also was waging a struggle against the Kolhapur Darbar. The leaders of the Praja Parishad too had demanded a responsible

government in Kolhapur State. During the conflict that had taken place some time earlier between Karveer administration and the National Congress, the administration had not only arrested a few Congress leaders but had lathi-charged the agitationists on 16 August, 1942. The only demand of the National Congress leaders in Kolhapur was for the establishment of a responsible government in the State and all its Jahagirs. Kolhapur Darbar rejected this demand and started taking the leaders in custody and lathi-charging the agitationists. These events made a far-reaching impact on the agitation of the Praja Sangh in Ichalkaranji Jahagir.

A public meeting of Praja Sangh was held at Ichalkaranji on 21 August, 1942 under the chairmanship of D.T. Chivate. In this meeting, resolutions protesting the arrests of the Congress leaders, requesting the introduction of fully responsible government in Kolhapur State including the Jahagirs, and demanding an enquiry into the lathi-charge made at Kolhapur on 16 August, 1942 were passed.

Quit India Movement and Praja Sangh :

The 'Quit India' movement initiated by the National Congress against the British was in full swing throughout the country. Against this background, on 25

August, 1942, the president of Praja Sangh wrote a detailed letter to H.H. Maharani Saheb of Kolhapur Darbar describing therein the methods being adopted by the Jahagirdar of Ichalkaranji in suppressing its subjects' agitations for just demands:

"The Jahagirdar of Ichalkaranji and his administrative officials are trying to take advantage of the wave of disturbances that has arisen throughout Hindustan from 9 August, 1942. Her Highness may depute intelligence agents to ascertain the facts. The Jahagir administration is dancing to the tune of officials. They are deliberately trying to implicate Praja Sangh workers in the disturbances. The administration behaves partially. Jahagir's principal officers being hand in gloves with the village goondas, on the pretext of our agitation, are trying to implicate our workers in their atrocities. Vindictively, they are trying to put us behind ^{the} bars. The matters may be considered with due indulgence". ¹⁹

On 5 September, 1942, a delegation comprising D.T.Chivate, Shivgonda Patil and other four members of Praja Sangh met the Prime Minister of Kolhapur for discussing their demands. D.T.Chivate was not much satisfied with the outcome of the discussions. Hence, the delegation met the H.H.Rani Saheb also and was advised to be patient.

D.T.Chivate, however, called a public meeting the same day and appealed to the people to be ready for a Satyagraha. Chivate and Shirgurkar-Patil also consulted Barrister Bhave, Narayan Chavan and G.G.Jadhav (Editor, Daily 'Pudhari' of Kolhapur) about the Satyagraha and its planning, at the end of which it was decided to take out a mass Morcha to the Jahagirdar's palace at Ichalkaranji.²⁰

Praja Sangh workers intended to raise a massive agitation against the Jahagirdar, which gave further impetus to the movement. Praja Sangh leaders began to shape the public opinion through meetings. In the meetings held on 10, 11 and 13 September, 1942, D.T.Chivate, Shamrao Joshi and Narayan Bugad advised the people in the conduct of the proposed agitation and also severely attacked the Jahagir administration. D.T.Chivate, in his speech, said,

"This is the last fight of the Praja Sangh. The Imperial Government is tottering and we have to destroy the power of a page like Babasaheb who licks the shoes of the tottering British Government. Praja Sangh is the representative body of Ichalkaranji. Our decision has been communicated to Babasaheb. The decision taken by the working committee of Praja Sangh on 21 August, 1942 is firm - a fight will be declared from 14 September, 1942, that is, the Ganesh Chaturthi day". ²¹

However, instead of bowing to the agitation of Praja Sangh, the Jahagir officials threatened to shoot Praja Sangh workers. Praja Sangh, therefore, wrote the following letter to the Prime Minister of Kolhapur on 13 September, 1942 criticizing the attitude of the Jahagir administration and the role of passive spectator dapted by Kolhapur Darbar:

"The Chhatrapati of Kolhapur delivered his subjects into the care of Ichalkaranji Jahagirdar for their nurture and protection. The Jahagirdar is

answerable to the subjects' complaints against him. But during the last fifty years, in spite of hundreds of complaints the higher authority i.e. Kolhapur Darbar believes its unjust servants and continues to neglect its thousands of subjects. This is unjust.

On the one hand, due to the oppressive, arrogant, vindictive and biassed rule of the Ichalkaranji Jahagir officers, the subjects are being persecuted, on the other, the administration is creating an illusion of its fair rule by submitting false reports to the higher authority. This also is unjust. The higher authority is unresponsive to the hundreds of outcries, the subjects have finally resolved to seek justice under the leadership of the Praja Sangh. Some local officials here openly threaten lathi-charge and gun shots. It is now beseeched that the higher authority devote its full attention to giving justice to the subjects". ²²

Flag Hoisting :

The letter dated 16 September, 1942 informs us as under:

"The Praja Sangh has been dissolved and Mr.Chivate has been appointed as its dictator with full powers to lead the Satyagraha. Accordingly, a big procession was taken out on the 14 September, 1942, with a view to hoist Bhagwa Zenda before the Palace, but as the Palace was guarded, the Zenda was hoisted outside the town. On the 15 September, 1942, also, a procession was taken out by Mr.Shirgurkar-Patil and N.T.Bugad ".²³

The working committee of the Praja Sangh in its meeting dated 16 August, 1942 decided to seek people's consensus in a public meeting on 21 August, 1942, and began a Satyagraha from 14 September, 1942 in its confrontation with the unjust Jahagir administration of Ichalkaranji. Hence, Mr.E.W.Perry, the Prime Minister of Kolhapur, personally visited Ichalkaranji town on 20 September, 1942 and assured to reform the Jahagir administration as demanded. Hence, the Praja

Sangh suspended its agitation for a period of three weeks. However, differences arose among the Praja Sangh leaders about this temporary suspension.

“Mr.D.T.Chivate, the Dictator of the Praja Sangh, suspended his Satyagraha for twenty days from 21 September,1942 after receiving an assurance from Mr.Perry to grant the legitimate demands of the Praja Sangh. Mr.N.T.Bugad and some workers of the Praja Sangh, it seems did not like the idea of suspending the Satyagraha and were of the view that the negotiations would not lead to any progress. ²⁴

The Prime Minister of Kolhapur had personally visited Ichalkaranji on 21 September,1942 and had negotiated with D.T.Chivate, the Supremo of Praja Sangh, for formulating a Jahagir administration plan that would ultimately benefit the subjects. During these negotiations, it was also decided to conclude a 'Holy Treaty'. However, it took some time to prepare drafts of the treaty and the administration plan. D.T.Chivate, on 1 October,1942, wrote to the Prime

Minister to send him drafts of both the documents before these were made public.

"It would be convenient from the point of future cooperation to send me the drafts of the holy treaty that was concluded in the negotiations held on 20 September, 1942, and in pursuance to which, an administration plan that has been or is being prepared, for informing it to the people. Hence, the draft of the administration plan be sent expeditiously. The plan finalized after people's approval will be ultimately beneficial to all. However, in keeping with the usual attitude, if the constitution is forced on without obtaining people's approval, the people will certainly resist".²⁵

On 2 October, 1942, Mr. E. W. Perry, the Prime Minister, replied D. T. Chivate's letter dated 1 October, 1942, in which he stated that he was 'taking necessary steps in the subjects' interests; hence, Praja Sangh may grant additional seven days' time to implement the plan". On 5 October, 1942, D. T. Chivate once again informed Mr. E. W. Perry that,

"If you send beforehand the administrative plan that is being worked out to satisfy the demands of the subjects and if we feel assured that the plan contains satisfactory arrangements, then, as suggested by you, we will be inclined to grant further time. Hence, please send your plan by return post. Please do not make it public unless it satisfies us".²⁶

Discussion between D.T.Chivate and E.W.Perry :

On the same day, that is 5 Ocomber,1942, the working committee meeting of the Praja Sangh also adopted the following resolutions about the future administrative arrangements in the Jahagir,

"The working committee meeting of the Jahagir Praja Sangh was held at Ichalkaranji on 5 Octomber,1942 when the following resolutions were passed:

- 1)Requesting to appoint an
Administrative Council of four
elected members from the Jahagir
whose decision shall be binding on
the Jahagirdar, subject to the right

- with Kolhapur Darbar;
- 2) Requesting to discharge Mr. Khebudkar and Mr. Rajawade immediately;
 - 3) Requesting to apply the Jahagir Panchayat Act and the District Municipal Act".²⁷

Mr. Perry duly considered the resolutions passed by the Praja Sangh's working committee in its meeting on 5 October, 1942 and in his letter dated 7 October, 1942 addressed to Mr. Chivate expressed his doubts about the Praja Sangh's activities. On 9 October, 1942, Chivate met Mr. Perry personally and cleared his doubts. In the face-to-face discussions held later, the following brief details of the new administrative plan for Ichalkaranji Jahagir emerged:

- (1) Jahagir Administrative Board : Such a Board cannot be formed because the Jahagir is not an autonomous State. Instead, an Administrator for administering the Jahagir would be appointed, he would be answerable to Kolhapur Darbar and the Jahagirdar;
- (2) Officers already in the employ of the Jahagir administration cannot be removed, as demanded;

- (3) The name of the Administrator cannot be declared today, because his appointment would be subject to the approval of the Jahagirdar;
- (4) No civic rights would be granted to the subjects;
- (5) A Jahagir Panchayat would be formed and municipal elections would be held shortly;
- (6) Instead of seven days, the Darbar would need about twenty days to finalise these matters.

Nothing came out of the discussions held between E.W.Perry and D.T.Chivate on 9 October, 1942. Chivate appraised his associates of the discussions and of the administrative plan proposed by Mr. Perry, which satisfied no one. Hence, on 10 October, 1942, Chivate informed the Praja Sangh's reaction to the proposed administration plan as follows:

"According to your plan, no rights are being granted to the subjects. In your letter of 2 October, 1942, you asked for 7 days' time, but in our personal meeting, you asked for twenty days' time. This shows your policy of

procrastination. Even after agreeing to your difficulties regarding the appointment of an Administrator, we do not see any difficulty in appointing an administrator, aware of the subjects' interests and who is approved by them. Hence, we are once again presenting our demands before you that : the Administrator should be approved by the subjects, the two present administration officers should be removed, municipality and Jahagir Panchayat should comprise only of the public representatives. The above demands be implemented by 14 Octomber,1942, failing which, we shall resort to all constitutional measures for seeking our rights and redressing the injustices". ²⁸

Lathi Charge in Ichalkaranji :

The Praja Sangh planned to hold a public meeting at 10.00 P.M. on 17 Octomber,1942 in Narayan Chowk at Ichalkaranji for deliberating on the further steps to be taken for pressing its demands.

However, on hearing that the meeting would be disturbed by the Jahagir administration, its venue was changed to Gandhi Chowk. About six to seven thousand people attended the meeting. The meeting was progressing peacefully and though there was no ban on public meetings, there was a sudden lathi-charge. The report of the incident is found in the 'Political Movement in Deccan States':

"The lathi charge that occurred at Ichalkaranji on the 17 October, 1942, Mr.D.T.Chivate, the president of the Jahagir Praja Sangh, issued a pamphlet giving a detailed account of the incident characterising the lathi charge on the innocent people of Ichalkaranji as inhuman. After reviewing the constitutional activities of the Praja Sangh, the pamphlet alleges that the Jahagirdar, Khebudkar, Rajwade and his other associates deliberately conspired to crush the Praja Sangh with the help of police, servants and village Sanadis and asserts that these persons made a brutal lathi charge on the meeting of the Praja Sangh held in Gandhi Camp on 17 October, 1942, and

mercilessly belaboured Chivate, Bugad and even females by dragging them out from their houses. Mr.Chivate's shop was looted and an attempt was made to set his Gandhi Camp on fire. Then Mr.Chivate and others intended to lead a march to Kolhapur with a view to see the Prime Minister in this connection".²⁹

The Prime Minister of Kolhapur was informed about the lathi-charge and the beating of the subjects that had taken place on 17 Ocomber,1942. The Praja Sangh, by its letter dated 22 Octomber,1942, also informed him about the events that took place in Ichalkaranji from the evening of 18,Octomber,1942 to the morning of 22 Octomber,1942:

"After the visit of Khan Bahadur Sadri (DIG) to Ichalkaranji, Shri.Sawant Mamlatdar, Revenue Patil of village Lat and Chilu Morbale, have gathered together the local goondas and have created terror in Ichalkaranji. Shri.Bhosale Police Inspector arrived in Ichalkaranji on the night of 20 Octomber,1942. The same night Chilu

Morbale and other goondas burnt down the house and haystack of Shri.Bhupal Chavan, who has now filed a complaint against Chilu Morbale and 28 others, under Sections 147, 323, 325, 427 and 452 of the Indian Penal Code. Out of these, sixteen are Jahagirdar's servants who cannot be arrested unless they are suspended. Besides, attempts are under way to secure the release of those already arrested. On the whole, the population is terror-stricken".³⁰

Although Kolhapur Darbar was appraised of the situation on 22 Octomber,1942, it did nothing immediately. Hence, the president of the Praja Sangh on 23 Octomber,1942 again wrote to the Prime Minister to contain the terrorism in Ichalkaranji. The contents in brief of the letter were:

"An order be issued for preventing the release of the goondas arrested for attacking the Praja Sangh meeting. The Jahagir be ordered to suspend and immediately arrest its servants accused of rioting. Without these

measures, people will not feel assured. Further, as promised, Your Honour should declare the Legislative Council Resolution and the actions being taken by the Darbar about the riots in Ichalkaranji".³¹

The Kolhapur Darbar ascertained the facts from Khan Bahadur Sadri, Deputy Inspector General of Police, about the use of maffians made by goondas of Ichalkaranji Jahagir's administrative officials and appointed A.K.Bhosale, Police Inspector, to investigate the events. Although A.K.Bhosale had arrived in Ichalkaranji and commenced his investigation, D.T.Chivate complained to the Darbar in his letter dated 24 Octomber, 1942 that for certain reasons, the investigation is not being conducted properly. His letter reads:

"On his arrival in Ichalkaranji on Darbar's instructions, Shri.A.K.Bhosale has started his investigations. But as the Jahagir's administrative officials are threatening the witnesses coming forward to give evidence and since Darbar is doing nothing in spite of the inhuman atrocities being perpetrated

everyday, the goondas armed with lathis and axes continue to roam around. Hence, unless the witnesses are given adequate protection, it is impossible for the investigation to proceed in a proper direction. Also, Sawant Mamlatdar and the Revenue Patil of village Lat continue to openly threaten the people. Hence, unless these officials are immediately suspended and arrested, no one will dare to tender evidence against them". ³²

Thus, it is seen that Praja Sangh had repeatedly complained to the Kolhapur Darbar about the goondaism of the Jahagir administrative officials. The Kolhapur Darbar also had appointed A.K.Bhosale, Police Inspector, to investigate the riots occurred on 17.10.1942. Still, the Praja Sangh workers were not satisfied with the investigation. Praja Sangh President D.T.Chivate, therefore, on 25 October, 1942, demanded the appointment of a Special Magistrate to conduct the investigation.

"After the riots of 17 October, 1942, as a measure for reassuring the people, Kolhapur Darbar has appointed

Shri.Amritrao Bhosale, Police Inspector, to conduct an investigation. However, he is an employee of the Jahagir and still is working as per the directions of his former superiors. Obviously, Praja Sangh will not get impartial justice under Jahagir's supervision. Hence, a First Class Magistrate answerable only to Karveer Darbar be appointed to give us justice". ³³

After the riots of 17 Octomber,1942, there was considerable confusion in the Jahagir, rumours were rife, lootings and plunder occurred and people were terrified. From time to time, Praja Sangh kept informed the Kolhapur Darbar about the prevailing situation. In its letter dated 27 Octomber,1942, Praja Sangh once again gave detailed information to the Kolhapur Darbar with a request to take appropriate measures:

"On the Bazar (weekly market) day, people became more terrified with the rumour of Bazar looting. Many (textile) mill owners have voluntarily kept their mills closed. Only the mills of Jahagirdar's agents are working. Police

Inspector Pirgonda Patil has been suspended • but Policemen are still working at his house. At the instigation of the Jahagirdar, false complaints of picketing and stone-throwing on shops for forcing a Hartal are being registered against Praja Sangh workers. Two of our workers have also been falsely implicated for cutting off telegraphic lines during the riots of 17th October. An apprehensive atmosphere still prevails in the town". ³⁴

The Praja Sangh had made a demand to the Kolhapur Darbar for the appointment of a Special Magistrate for conducting an enquiry into the riots. But the Darbar did not take any action on the demand till 1 November, 1942. Hence, the President of the Praja Sangh again wrote to the Darbar on 2 November, 1942 as follows:

"Arrangements still have not been made for prosecuting the riot cases and for providing protection to the witnesses. Also, the officers deputed by the Darbar arrest and put in jail the riot accused, but the Jahagir officers

release them. Then the accused threaten the witnesses. Hence, witnesses do not come forward to give evidence. If the Darbar appoints a good and reliable pleader as a Public Prosecutor, then only its intention of giving justice would materialise".³⁵

However, the various letters addressed by the Praja Sangh to the Kolhapur Darbar did not have much effect. As the riot accused were released on bail, apprehensions picked momentum again. The revenue Patil of village Lat, Jahagir's Policemen and other goondas again started their terrorizing activities, hence the investigation work could not conclude satisfactorily. Praja Sangh workers generally felt that until the goondas and the riot accused were getting protection from the Jahagirdar and they were getting out on bail, the riot investigation work would not proceed impartially and the terrorizing tactics will not stop. The Praja Sangh, therefore, in its letter dated 4 November, 1942 requested the Kolhapur Darbar to put Darbar Guards on the jail. It repeated its request for the appointment of a special magistrate and public prosecutor.

In response to the Praja Sangh's long standing demand, the Kolhapur Darbar finally decided to appoint an Enquiry Commission for investigating the 17 October riots. It also appointed a special magistrate, but the Praja Sangh objected to him because his name was suggested by the Jahagirdar. The Praja Sangh also submitted another application on 23 November, 1942 for conducting an impartial investigation into the riots.

"We are pleased that the Kolhapur Darbar has decided to appoint an enquiry commission for investigating the riots that took place in Ichalkaranji on 17 October, 1942 and accordingly, also has appointed a special magistrate. Shri. Pandurang Naik, B.A., has been appointed as the special magistrate, his name being proposed by the Jahagirdar of Ichalkaranji. Shri. Pandurang Naik is a relative of Shri. Naik, Police Sub-Inspector in Vishalgad Jahagir, and the Jahagirdars of Vishalgad and Ichalkaranji have very close relations. Besides, it is not proper to bring in an outside magistrate when the Kolhapur Darbar itself has a

number of them. In brief, we have our reservations about the impartiality of this magistrate. Hence, his appointment be cancelled and another appointment be made in his place. If the Jahagirdar and his officers claim to be innocent, they should not be afraid of a judicial enquiry. The Darbar may draw its own conclusions and give us justice". ³⁶

(III) An Evaluation of Ichalkaranji Jahagir Praja Sangh :

The post 1940, political situation in the Southern Maratha Country States was as follows :

The Aundh State had a completely responsible political system. The states of Sangli and Phalatan had diarchy, resulting in people's representation in the state administration. The states of Bhor, Jamakhandi, Miraj, Miraj Mala had established legislative bodies with administrative powers. Akkalkot, Kurundwad (Jr.), Jath, Ramdurg, and Sawantwadi had promised political reforms to their subjects. Similarly the state of Kolhapur, Kurundwad (Sr.), Mudhol and Savnur had promised political reforms to their people. Wadi being a feudatory, it was not possible to have any political reforms there. ³⁷

Mahatma Gandhi, in his paper Harijan of 15-9-1940 wrote asking the people of princely states to go slow in the demand of political rights, but during the 'Quit India' movement he changed his stand and asked people to agitate against the princes of their rights. ³⁸

During the period of second world war, the failure of Cripps Mission brought about an immediate and distinct change in the attitude of Mahatma Gandhi. Gandhi's changed attitude to Britain also brought about a change in his method of activity. Since the collapse of the Civil Disobedience of 1930, Gandhi had abandoned the idea of mass movement. But his mind was changed afterwards moving from the extreme of complete inactivity to that of organized mass effort.

On 7 June of 1942 Gandhiji wrote,
"I waited and waited until the country should develop the non-violent strength necessary to throw off the foreign yoke. But my attitude has now undergone a change. I feel that I cannot afford to wait. If I continue to wait I might have to wait till doomsday. For the preparation that I have prayed and worked for may never come and in the mean time I may be enveloped and overwhelmed by the

flames that threaten all of us. That is why I have decided that even at certain risks which are obviously involved I must ask the people to resist the slavery.”³⁹

On this background the freedom movement of Ichalkaranji Jahagir was also in the extreme position. Kolhapur Darbar by its notification No. 68, declared Ichalkaranji Jahagir Praja Sangh as an unlawful body, hence banned. And on the same day another notification issued by the legislative department of Kolhapur Darbar declared the removal of D.T.Chivate from the Kolhapur State.

In a small-sized Jahagir like Ichalkaranji, Ichalkaranji Jahagir Praja Sangh was an important organization that waged a persistent struggle through constitutional means against the Jahagirdar and his administration in the pursuit of the demands of the Jahagir's subjects. The Praja Sangh's movement was influenced by the similar movements in other Indian native states in the Bombay Presidency, including the Kolhapur State.

‘Akhil Bharatiya Sansthan Lok Parishad’ is the foundational organization spearheading the democracy movement in the Indian native states. Shri.N.C.Kelkar,

Shri. G.R.Abhaynkar and Shri.Wamanrao Patwardhan were the founder promoters of the Lok Parishad. During the period between 1922-23 to 1936-37, the Lok Parishad held a total of six annual conventions under the chairmanship of M.Ramchandra Rao, C.Y.Chintamani, Ramanand Chatterjee, N.C.Kelkar, Dr.Pattabhi Sitaramayya and Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru.

The Lok Parishad either by itself, or on its encouragement local Lok Parishads in different native States, brought to light the tyrannical administration in these States. It is quite likely that the working of the 'Ichalkaranji Jahagir Praja Parishad' was influenced by the Akhil Bharatiya Lok Parishad.

In the history of the democracy movements in various native states, the year 1938 has gone down as being highly agitated and turbulent ones. In the British Territory of Bombay Province, people at Baglan, Palghar and Bassein raised a movement against unjust increase in land revenue and the Government had to back down. Encouraged by this success, an organization named 'Mumbai Ilakha Sheti Sangh' was constituted at Pune on 23.7.1929 to wage a methodical struggle against land revenue increases.⁴⁰

These external events and movements also influenced the subjects of the Ichalkaranji Jahagir.

The movement for democracy in the Southern Maharashtra came into being at Pune on the efforts of N.C.Kelkar, ~~and~~ and Anant Vinayak alias Wamanrao Patwardhan. This democratic movement also made a long range impact on the movement of Ichalkaranji Jahagir's subjects.

In Southern Maharashtra, a responsible Government was first established in Aundh Native State at the initiative of its ruler - Shrimant Balasaheb Pant Pratinidhi. He thus became the first Indian native ruler to establish a Government responsible directly to the people. ⁴¹

Among the eighteen Southern Maharashtra Native States, the State of Kolhapur was the largest in terms of territory and revenue. Beginning in the last decade of the 19th century, its Chhatrapatis introduced several social and educational reforms, but as regards administration, they continued the tradition of unified dictatorship. In the year 1938, Bhai Madhavrao Bagal struck a very hard blow to this unfettered power. "On 6 February, 1939, in Jaysingpur town, an organization named 'Kolhapur Sansthan Praja Parishad' was formed under the chairmanship of Madhavrao Bagal and with it began a long struggle between the Kolhapur Darbar and the Praja Parishad" ⁴²

Whether in Kolhapur State or in Ichalkaranji Jahagir, the grievances of the subjects were not against either the ruler or the Jahagirdar, but their anger was against the administrative officials. Madhavrao Bagal, the leader of the Kolhapur Sansthan Praja Parishad, in this connection, states, "We complain not because we want to take a revenge against the Chhatrapati. It is because his ill-deigning, base, ingrate advisers do not allow our wailing to reach him. It is our heartiest desire that the subjects of Kolhapur receive the self-rule rights without recourse to disobedience, thereby adding to Chhatrapati's prestige".⁴³

The democracy movement got under way in Kolhapur State. The land revenue resistance movement in Ichalkaranji, a Jahagir of Kolhapur State, thus may be said to be following the example of Kolhapur Sansthan Praja Parishad's larger democracy movement.

Just like the Chhatrapati of Kolhapur did for his State, Shrimant Babasaheb Ghorpade, the Jahagirdar of Ichalkaranji, too undertook energetic efforts to reform the administration of his Jahagir and converted Ichalkaranji Town into "Maharashtra's Manchester". Later on, however, there arose dearth of funds to pursue these reforms, which he tried to meet through a stiff increase in the land revenue in Jahagir's Ajara Taluka, and thereby sowed the seeds of discontent.

Miraj was another native State adjoining Ichalkaranji Jahagir. There too, the increase in the land revenue was unjust and the ruler invited peasants' discontent. Alike the peasants' Satyagraha in Bardoli in Gujarat in protest of land revenue increases, Miraj too witnessed a 'mini-Bardoli'. The peasants in Ichalkaranji Jahagir, drawing inspiration from this mini-Bardoli, raised a banner of revolt against the Jahagirdar in protest of the increased land revenue.

In short, the subjects' movements in Indian native states, in the native states in Bombay Province, in the Southern Maharashtra native states, in the Kolhapur States, directly or indirectly influenced the subjects' movement undertaken by the Ichalkaranji Praja Sangh.

In view of the peasants' agitations in places like Baglan, Bassein, Palghar, Malegaon and Deogad, the Provincial Government of Bombay had to change its land revenue policy. Chhotalal Shroff, a peasants' leader of Palghar, had informed the Government that, "If the Government does not change its land revenue policy, there would occur a Satyagraha like Bardoli", to which the Governor had replied that, "land revenue increase is being kept in abeyance pending the promulgation of a new law pertaining to the land revenue."⁴⁴

The Government thus admitted that the prevailing land revenue system was defective and promised to bring in its place a revised system. These events also influenced the peasants' movement in Ichalkaranji Jahagir.

It is also seen that the subjects' movements in various Indian native states, the native states in Bombay Province and in Ichalkaranji Jahagir came about mainly as a reaction against the land revenue increases and also to resist the repressive policies of the regime.

An analysis of the democracy movements in the Indian native states shows that behind most of these movements, unjust land revenue increases was the economic reason, and irresponsible state administration was the political reason. Particularly, the Ichalkaranji Praja Sangh was formed to redress the people's economic grievances. An unjust land revenue increase in Ajara Taluka of the Jahagir was the first problem that the Sangh encountered. In later years, the Sangh also pursued the political problems like people's representation and installation of a responsible government. Obviously, there are several similarities in the democracy movements countrywide and the subjects' movement in the Ichalkaranji Jahagir.

An evaluation of the leadership and followers (people)

On a country wide level, subjects of several native states took up a struggle against the rulers for securing their democratic rights, in an organized manner. In this movement, 'Akhil Bharatiya Sansthan Lok Parishad' was a leading national level organization. Initially, it was led by N.C.Kelkar, G.R.Abhyankar and Wamanrao Patwardhan. It also received guidance and leadership from eminent persons like M.Ramchandra Rao, C.Y.Chintamani, Dr.Pattabhi Sitaramayya and Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. Modeled on this pioneer organization, several organizations like 'Mumbai Ilakha Sheti Sangh', 'Dakshini Maharashtra Sansthan Praja Parishad', 'Kolhapur Sansthan Praja Parishad', etc., came into being. In the wake of these higher level organizations, local organizations of native state populations, commonly called 'Praja Parishad' or 'Praja Sangh' mushroomed in small and large native states alike. 'Ichalkaranji Jahagir Praja Sangh' was one such organization formed in the year 1939 under the guidance and leadership of several persons.

In the initial years, several newspapers and leaders aided the Ichalkaranji Praja Sangh. Prominent

among these were the newspapers like 'Kesari', 'Sansthani Swarajya', 'Dnyan-Prakash', 'Maratha', 'Pudhari' and 'Satyavadi' and leaders like Kolhapur State Congress President Shirgurkar-Patil, Barrister Bhawe, Narayan Chavan, Daily 'Pudhari's editor G.G.Jadhav, B.V.Shikhare, Kolhapur Praja Parishad leader Bhai Madhavrao Bagal, D.B.Divekar, editor of 'Maratha' (Pune), and several others.

Ichalkaranji Praja Sangh's movement was people-oriented and it had taken up a struggle against the Jahagir administration and the unjust rule of the Jahagirdar. Hence, it enjoyed the support of common people. Under its banner, people had organized to secure their rights and they fully trusted their leaders.

In a way, the movement undertaken by the Ichalkaranji Praja Sangh was representative of the countrywide democracy movement. It was a revolt against the rulers to secure the basic rights. Although the movement was against the Jahagir administration and its ruler Shrimant Babasaheb Ghorpade, from time to time, the Praja Sangh workers also attacked the Kolhapur Darbar and the British Government. Considered against this perspective, it may be stated that the movement of the Ichalkaranji Praja Sangh was not limited only to Ichalkaranji Jahagir, but it was part of a wider national movement.

NOTES

- 1.Kolhapur Archives, (hereafter K.A.), "Ichalkaranji File No.24", p.16
- 2.Ibid, p.18
- 3.K.A. "Ichalkaranji File No.53", p.176
- 4.Ibid, p.199
- 5.Ibid, p.240
- 6.K.A., "Ichalkaranji File No.24", p.46
- 7.Ibid, p.60
- 8.Ibid, p.61
- 9.Ibid, p.61
- 10.Ibid, p.75
- 11.Ibid, pp.28,29,30
- 12.Ibid, p.84
- 13.K.A., "Ichalkaranji File No.134", pp.64,65
- 14.K.A., "Ichalkaranji File No.133", pp.52,53
- 15.K.A., "Ichalkaranji File No.134", pp.66,67
- 16.Ibid, pp.40,41
- 17.Ibid, pp.36,37
- 18.National Archives, (hereafter N.A.), "Politiacal Movement in Ichalkaranji, Micro Film, Accession No.253", p.75
- 19.K.A. , "Ichalkaranji File No.134", p.34
- 20.N.A., op.cit,p.45
- 21.K.A., "Ichalkaranji File No.134", p.33

22. Ibid, p.30
23. N.A., op.cit, p.43
24. Ibid, p.43
25. K.A., "Ichalkaranji File No.134", p.21
26. Ibid, p.22
27. N.A., op.cit, p.43
also in K.A. op.cit, p.23
28. Ibid, p.18
29. Ibid, p.20
also in N.A. op.cit, p.41
30. K.A., op.cit, p.8
31. Ibid, p.9
32. Ibid, p.10
33. Ibid, p.12
34. Ibid, p.13
35. K.A., "Ichalkaranji File No.134", p.15
36. Ibid, pp.17,18
37. Patwardhan V.A., "Dakshin Maharashtraatil Sansthanachya Vilinikaranachya Katha, (Marathi)
Pune, p.13
See also, Hanamane V. N., The Dafaes of Jath
A Thesis submitted to Shivaji University,
Kolhapur, 1994, pp.252,253
38. Ibid, p.16

39. Majumdar R.C., "Struggle for Freedom, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan's History and Culture of the Indian Peoples Vol. XI, Published by S.Ramkrushnan, Executive Secretary, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Bombay, 1969, p.645
40. Patwardhan V.A., "Sansthanatil Lokshahicha Ladha", (Marathi), p.220
41. Patwardhan, "Dakshin Sansthanatil Vilinikaranachya Katha", (Marathi), pp.8,9
42. Ibid, p.23
43. Bagal Madhavrao, "Jeevan Pravah", p.1
44. Patwardhan, "Sansthanatil Lokshahicha Ladha", (Marathi), pp.221,222

CHAPTER VIII

EPILOGUE

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The Ichalkaranji Jahagir consisted of two major parts: one was the Ichalkaranji proper and the other one was Ajara Taluka. These two parts were not contiguous. In between the two, there was the territory under the control of British administration. This naturally created administrative problems. Moreover there could be no emotional integration among the people of Ichalkaranji jahagir living in these two parts. Though the Panchganga river flowed through some parts of Ichalkaranji jahagir, her water was not available to the entire agricultural land in jahagir. The best quality land was only in vicinity of the river Panchganga. While the land in other parts of the jahagir was comparatively inferior and dependent upon rain water for irrigation. The Ajara taluka of the jahagir was covered with forest land and therefore, only a small percentage of land was under cultivation. The taluka was hilly region and therefore, there were problems of irrigation.

Due to this geographical factors agriculture was a profession, which gave diminishing returns to the agriculturist. The people in the jahagir were poor. In the town of Ichalkaranji, the capital of Ichalkaranji

jahagir, there was an area earmarked for the handloom industry by the predecessors of Babasaheb Ghorpade. Taking the advantages of dry climate of Ichalkaranji, the handloom weavers persuade their profession.

In view of the property of both in agriculture and industry, the economic condition of Ichalkaranji jahagir prior to 1892 was quite grim. The situation was made worst by the predecessors of Babasaheb Ghorpade, who were interested mainly in their personal comfort and luxury. In 1892, when Babasaheb Ghorpade rose to the gadi of Ichalkaranji jahagir, there was an economic crisis, there was considerable public debt. One of the first act of Babasaheb Ghorpade was to repay this debt and he had no other alternative but to take a loan amount of Rs. 45,000/- which was a considerable amount in 1892. The economic crisis further deepened five years after the occasion. There was famine and plague epidemics in 1897. Babasaheb Ghorpade had to take loan of Rs. 30,000/-.

It was Narayanrao Govindrao alias Narayanrao Babasaheb Ghorpade who tried to pull out the jahagir from the economic difficulties. It was necessary to control both the public and private expenditure, he therefore made a balance sheet of the jahagir in which he introduced measures of economy. The private expenditure of jahagirdar and his family was kept

distinct from the public sources. The private expenditure was maintained through the income from private sheri land. The area under sheri land was increased from thirty acres in the year 1991 to 1,600 acres in the year 1939. The modern agricultural practices were adopted in the sheri land by Babasaheb Ghorpade. Agriculture officers were also appointed. He tried different variety of mangoes and teak wood in sheri land in the Ajara Taluka. Consequently ,the income from the sheri land increased manifold. For the family expenditure of the jahagirdar, no money^{was} needed to be withdrawn from the public treasury. On the other hand in the economic crisis the jahagir was in a position to give loan and help for the public purpose. He also tried to introduce Poultry Farms and sanctioned public loans to the cultivators. The income from the forest land in the Ajara taluka almost doubled during his tenure. It was rupees 8,228/- in 1892 and in the year 1941-42 it became rupees 15,987/-. It can be said that within the geographical limits, the condition of the agriculturists improved.

Textile Industry:

Justice Mahadeo Gonind Ranade had advised Babasaheb Ghorpade to run the economy in such a

manner that money from outside could enter the jahagir. This meant that the export from the jahagir should be more than the import. The only commodity, which Ichalkaranji jahagir could export was cloth and to enhance fine cloth, it was necessary to mechanise the then textile industry, which produced clothes with help of hand-loom. With the encouragement of Babasaheb Ghorpade power looms, spinning jennies, cotton press facilities were improved in the jahagir. The production of clothes increased and therefore there was a demand for cotton. New varieties of cotton were raised by the cultivators of the jahagir. The cotton bales were useful to the spinning mills in Ichalkaranji. The surplus cotton was exported to Bombay. Seventy to eighty small units of power-loom were established during the regime of Babasaheb Ghorpades. The requirements of cloth during the 'First World War' gave a impetus to the cloth industry of Ichalkaranji. Ichalkaranji became the 'Manchester of Maharashtra.'

The increased cotton textile production inturn and encouraged trade and commerce in the jahagir. It was therefore necessary to start a market in the jahagir, which was established by Babasaheb Ghorpade.

Moreover, the industrialists and merchants needed credit facilities, because many people from other professions had entered the textile industry. Credit

societies were therefore founded in Ichalkarani jahagir in the years between 1913 to 1933. To regulate these societies a Central Co-operative Bank was necessary. Under the patronage of Babasaheb Ghorpade 'Ichalkaranji Central Co-operative Bank Limited' was established in 1921. The members of this bank increased from 122 in the year 1931 to 272 in the year 1936 and 382 in the year 1941. The share capital of the bank was in this period also increased to rupees 10,300/- to rupees 28,675/- in the year 1936 and rupees 31,950/- in the year 1941.

Urbanisation of Ichalkaranji :

To begin with Ichalkaranji was a small village, it became a village with a mart in 1720, and in the first decade of the twentieth century Ichalkaranji the textile centre of Maharashtra became a town and a city in stages. As a result of which, there was increase in area of Ichalkaranji more than that of many other cities in Maharashtra,. Ichalkaranji municipality which was established in the year 1893, had to face the problems of health and sanitation and water supply.

Industrial areas came up near the city, where Mal-land was available. Many of the workers preferred to live near the industrial areas. The colonies of the

workers required roads and water supply. The municipality had to supply these facilities to them. The expenditure of Ichalkaranji municipality rapidly increased. The employees of the municipality increased eighty-five in 1893, the number of employees more than doubled in fifty years in 1943.

There was hundred percent increase in the number of employees in the fifty years from 1893 to 1943. On the other hand in the next ten years, there was two hundred percent increase in the number of employees. In the year 1953 the number of employees was 157, in the year 1963 the figure went upto 319. It may be mentioned here that the expenditure of the account of establishment (salary, wages, allowances and pension benefits etc.) was kept at a minimum before independence, but this expenditure increased manifold after 1947. The increase in the establishment expenses in a way affected the development of the city, which required roads, gutters, water supply and hospitals.

Labour Movement :

With the growth of textile industry in Ichalkaranji, there was bound to be conflict between the owner of the power looms and the workers. While the owners were interested in increasing their profits,

the workers also wanted that the quality of their life also improve. The labourers had their problems regarding working hours, wages, compensation for accidents, retirement and old ages benefits. The problems of workers did not receive sufficient attention from the employers. As the industry developed, the number of workers also increased.

These workers were not united and Leftist Party in Ichalkaranji try to unite the workers and founded, 'Ichalkaranji Mill Workers Association' on 25 June, 1939. The mill workers began agitation on their problems through the association. During the Second World War, the demand for cloth increased and therefore owners of the power looms had to give a few concessions to the workers. By the end of our period of study, the number of workers in Ichalkaranji were more in number than the workers even in the Kolhapur city.

In the year 1943, there were 1100 looms with 3,000 workers in Ichalkaranji. The number of power looms almost doubled in eight years. In 1950, there were 2,000 power looms and by the year 1981 there were 30,000 power looms in Ichalkaranji. Consequently the number of workers also increased.

In the news paper 'Akhand Bharat' dated 23 March 1944, the problems of textile workers have been

elaborated. The workers received only living wages. There was no increment in their wages. Working hours were not fixed. Women workers did not receive wages during the pregnancy and after the delivery. The labour movement became intensive after 1947 and the Ichalkaranji branch Communist party took a leading role in initiating wages of the workers.

Social Development :

During the tenure of Babasahebn Ghorpade through the Public Works Department, road and bridges, schools and temples were constructed. A scheme for bringing tap water in Ichalkaranji was also initiated. Some public buildings were also constructed. In the year 1913 hospital building at the cost of Rs. 15,000/- was constructed. It was named as 'King Edward Memorial Hospital' (K.E.M. Hospital). Similarly a veterinary hospital also opened. In order to provide protection and security, the number of police personnel was increased from fifty to one hundred. A new building for keeping prisoners, was built in the year 1910. Armed police, in view of the political agitation, were provided in the year 1942.

Through the agency of the Municipality public sanitations were constructed and a Ghat was built on the river of Panchganga.

The tenure of Babasaheb Ghorpade also a significant for the judicial reforms that were introduced in the jahagir. It was very inconvenient for the people of Ajara Taluka to come to Ichalkaranji for their legal suits. A separate court was therefore established at Ajara in 1898. 'Justice delayed is justice denied', attempts were therefore made to make justice cheap and quick.

Shahu Chhatrapati, the royal revolutionary of Kolhapur had try to use the power of the Kolhapur state to uplift the condition of untouchables. He try to remove the disabilities of the untouchables and encouraged the leadership of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar. Babasaheb Ghorpade was his Jahagirdar and he therefore must have known the attempts made by Chhatrapati Shahu to improve the conditions of the untouchables. In the initial years, Babasaheb Ghorpade, a member of Chitpawan Brahmin caste, did give sufficient attention to the uplift to the untouchables. In the due course, however he had to give his attention to this problem. In reply to the enquiry made by Kolhapur State in 1938, the Jahagirdar

elaborated the steps taken by Jahagir administration to improve the conditions of the untouchables.

Primary education was made free for the untouchable students who were also given scholarships. In all 228 students from the untouchable families took education in the schools run by the Jahagirdar administration. Untouchability was not been observed in the schools and offices. Attempts were made to train some members of the Chambhar caste and to provide services to some of the untouchable people.

Political Movement :

The political movement in Ichalkaranji Jahagir was basically aimed at agitated against the Jahagir administration. So that the problem of cultivators regarding the revenue could be settled. In the long run people wanted a responsible, efficient and democratic Government in Ichalkaranji. With this aim in mind, some of the leaders established 'Ichalkaranji Jahagir Praja Sangh'. The political movement has its social aspect. Most of the officers of Ichalkaranji Jahagir like G.D.Kulkarni, Khebudkar, Rajwade, Tamhankar, L.V. Joshi, Rashingkar etc. were Brahmin by caste, Babasaheb Ghorpade did not try to recruit officers from

the other castes. Among Ichalkaranji Jahagir Praja Sangh, there were no Brhamins. The principle leaders of the Sangh were from Jain and Lingayat sects and weavers in Maratha castes.

The Jahagir administration could not bear the intensity of the agitation spearheaded by the Sangh. Babasaheb Ghorpade went to extreme of requesting Kolhapur State to declare the Praja Sangh as a unlawful organization and to externed its main leader D.T.Chivate from the jahagir. Babasaheb Ghorpade though a liberal in economic matters was a conservative in social and political matters.

After the demise of Narayanrao Babasaheb Ghorpade in December 1943, the political movement virtually came to an end. The main leader of Praja Sangh D.T. Chivate, who is still alive expressed the view in an interview that the political movement came to an end because the most of the demands of Praja Sangh were met satisfactorily. D.T.Chivate diverted his attention to the problems of the workers and through the agency of Praja Sangh demanded that the Factory Act should be applied to the workers, who should also be given dearness allowances. Under the leadership of

D.T.Chivate the textile workers in Ichalkaraanji went on strike for fortyfive days.

Among the leaders of Praja Sangh, there was division after getting the independence. Some of the leaders joined congress and some Shetkari Kamgar Paksha (S.K.P.). In 1946 the elections to the Ichalkaranji municipality was held, Praja Sangh and Indian National Congress contested the election in congress came off victorious.

Even today, the city of Ichalakaranji faces many problems relating to textile industry and urbanisation. Many of these problems are centered around the problem of mill workers working on the power looms. These problems need to be solved with by adopting sound financial policies. The Ichalkaranji Municipality also has to undertake measures to improve the quality of life of people in Ichalkaranji.

APPENDIX

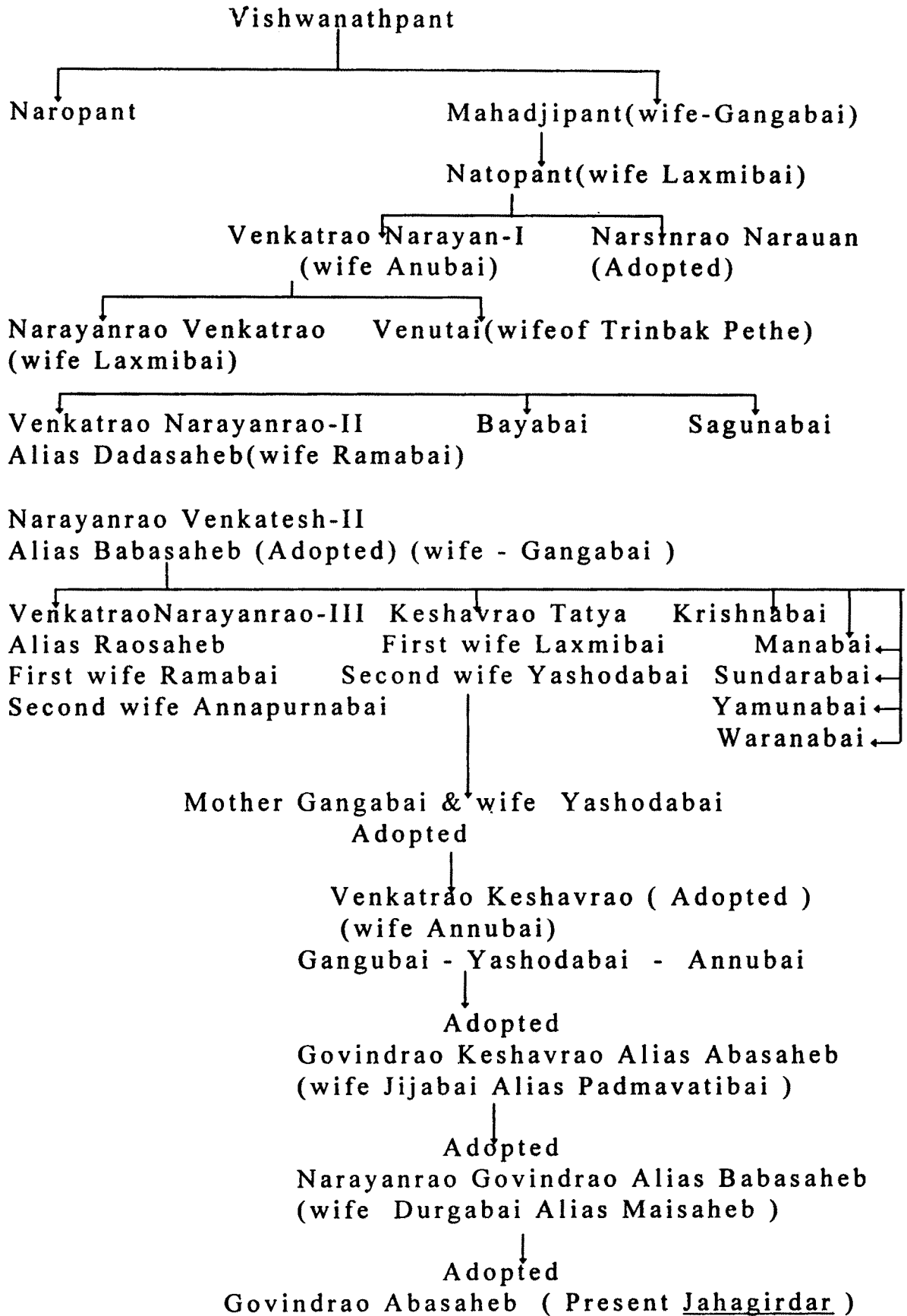
Appendix - A

(i)

RULERS OF ICHALKARANJI JAHAGIR

Sr. No.	Name of Ruler	B. Birth year or A. Accession year	Year of the Death
1.	Narayanrao Mahadeo	A. 1663 B. -----	1720
2.	Venkatrao Narayan-I	B. 1701 A. -----	1745
3.	Narayanrao Venkatrao - I	B. 1724 A. -----	1770
4.	Venkatrao Narayan- II	B. ----- A. 1771	1794
5.	Narayanrao Venkatesh	B. ----- A. 1795	1827
6.	Venkatrao Narayan -III	B. ----- A. 1827	1838
7.	Keshavrao Tatya	B. ----- A. 1838	1852
8.	Venkatrao Keshav	B. ----- A. 1853	1854
9.	Govindrao Keshavrao alias Abasaheb Ghorpade	B. ----- A. 1874	1876
10	Narayanrao Govindrao alias Babasaheb Ghorpade	B. 1870 A. 1892	1943
11	Govindrao Abasaheb -	B. ----- A. 1946	-----

(ii)
Genelogy of Ichalkaranji Jahagirdars



(iii)

Hand writing of Babasaheb Ghorpade

कर्मज्ये वाथकारे ते माफले पुं कदाचन
When there is a will there is a way
Babasaheb Ghorpade

श्री कर्मज्ये

~~कर्मज्ये वाथकारे ते माफले पुं कदाचन~~
~~कर्मज्ये वाथकारे ते माफले पुं कदाचन~~

महाराष्ट्र

कै. बाबासाहेबांचे हस्तलिखितांचे नमुने

(iv)

**Names Of Scholars Who Were Financed From
The Ichalkaranji Education Endowment Fund :**

Sr. No.	Name	Qualification
1	2	3
1.	Mr. M.R. Dhavale	I.C.S.
2.	Mr. G.D. Kelkar	B.A.
3.	Mr. A.S. Barkar	Bar-at-Law
4.	Dr. V.B.Ghokhale	M.B.B.S.,F.R.C.S.
5.	Mr. V.S. Bhide	I.C.S.,Bar-at-Law
6.	Dr. V.N.Likhite	B.Sc.,Ph.D.
7.	Mr. D.W.Kerkar	M.A.
8.	Mr. B.V. Gadgil	B.Sc.
9.	Dr. N.R. Damle	M.Sc., Ph.D.
10.	Mr. S.A.Kher	B.A.(Camb)
11.	Mr. G.N.Pandit	B.E.,B.Sc.(Lond.)
12.	Mr. L.T.Ghopal	I.C.S.
13.	Mr. N.S. Gupchup	B.Sc. (Edin)
14.	Mr. V.S. Mahajani	B.A.(Cantab)
15.	Mr. N.K.Kanitkar	B.Sc.(Lond.)
16.	Mr. R.R. Raddi	B.A.

17.	Dr. G.T.Kale	M.Sc.,Ph.D.,D.Sc.
18.	Mr. R.V.Jahagirdar	M.A.,(London.)
19.	Mr. M.G. Bhat	M.A.,B.Sc.(Lond.)
20.	Mr. S.H. Lele	M.A., M.Sc.
21.	N.K.Dravid	I.C.S.
22.	Mr.V.M. Tarkunde	Bar-at-Law
23.	Mr.K.V. Krishnamurti	M.Sc.
24.	Mr.P.M. Joshi	M.A. Ph.D.
25.	D.S. Agashe	B.A.
26.	Mr. R. Madhaw Row	M.Sc., Ph.D.
27.	Mr. V.N.Patwardhan	M.Sc.
28.	Mr. G.M. Vaidya	M.A.
29.	Dr. D.V. Karmarkar	M.Sc., Ph.D.
30.	Prof. V.S. Tilak	M.A.,B.A.,(Lond)
31.	Dr. B.G. Ghate	Ph.D.(Lond)
32.	Mr. V.M. Joshi	I.C.S.
33.	Dr. V.R.Damle	M.B.B.S.,F.R.C.S., I.M.S.
34.	D.V. Nadkarni	F.C.P.S.(Bom.)
35.	Mr. P.K. Kelkar	B.Sc.(Elect.)
36.	Mr.K.L. Joshi	M.A.(Lond.)
37.	Mr. J.V. Kranadikar	B.A.,LL.B.(D.R.S.) Berlin.

38.	Dr. Miss Shanta Saptarshi	M.B.B.S.(Bom.) R.R.C.S.(Edin.)
39.	Mr. G.D. Kane	B.Agri. (Bom), B.S.(LWSA)
40.	Dr. G.S. Kasbekar	M.Sc.,Ph.D. (Manch)
41.	Prof. C.B. Joshi	M.A.(Bom), B.A.(CentabP)
42.	Mr.V.D.Mehendale	B.Sc.
43.	Mr. V.N.Limaye	Education in Book- Binding and Printing.
44.	Prof. N.R. Parasnis	M.A.,B.T.,T.D.(Lond. M.R.S.R.
45.	Dr.K.P. Rode	M.Sc.Ph.D.(Zurich)
46.	Miss Nalini Dravid new Mrs.N.Pant	M.B.B.S.(Bom) F.R.C.S. (Edin)
47.	Dr. V.G. Joshi	L.C.P & S.
48.	Mr. M.S. Satwalekar	High Edu.in Printing
49.	Mr. B.N. Datar	M.Sc.
50.	Mr. M.S.Parkhe	B.A.,Paper & Paper Publi-Expert.
51.	Mr. V.K.Kotkurkar	B.A.(Hon.)(Cantab)
52.	Mr. M.A.Kolkhede	B.Sc., A.I.D.I.
53.	Mrs Kamalabai Ashtaputre	Mid-Wifery

54.	Mr.S.G.Karmarkar	R.I.N.K.
55.	Mr. K.S. Rane	B.E.(Elec.)A.M.I.E.E.
56.	Mr. R.S. Khot	M.Sc.
57.	Mr.V.W. Wakankar	L.M. & E.E.(BHU.)
58.	Dr. P.J.Deoras	M.Sc., Ph.D., LL.B.
59.	Mrs. Gangubai Patwardhan	T.D.(Londan)
60.	Dr. D.L. Deshpande	B.Y.V.
61.	Mr. R.A.Kullarni	I.C.S.
62.	Mr. D.S. Bakhale	I.C.S.

SMALLER NATIVE STATES : A Federal System**By - Narayanrao Babasaheb Ghorpade, Jahgirdar of Ichalkaranji**

Much talk is going on at present all over India about reforms in the Indian Administration, and the place of Native States in the scheme of reforms. But before a place is discussed for them in the Administration of British India, it should be planned and decided as to how the India States should reform their own administration and bring it to the standard of efficiency attained in British India.

Now out of a total of about six hundred and ninety five Native States only five have about a crore of revenue and about sixty-eight more above five lakhs of revenue. The remaining six hundred and twenty-two possess under five lakhs and of these a little over four hundred have under five lakhs and of these a little over four hundred have under three lakhs of income. It will be seen, then, that an overwhelming majority of these States are not only smaller than a British District, but by far the greater proportion are even smaller than a British State Taluka.

The small minority of the bigger Native States have their models in a suitable unit of the British States have their models in a suitable unit of the British Administration. But looking to the vast number of smaller states, one is at a loss to see how their administration could be made efficient. Their revenue is too small to meet adequately the cost of an efficient Administration and further the territory of many of them, as for example, the Southern Maratha

They can not induce men of real ability to enter into their service. Besides with the proud position of being complete units in themselves, the States have to maintain in miniature all the Departments of the British Administration. This has, however, to be done with an ill-paid and ill-manned inspecting staff of officer on account of pecuniary and other circumstances, with such an inspecting staff, original work is sure to be slipshod and inefficient. The relieving feature of the administration is, however, when available, the influence of an enlightened and conscientious ruler. Having the sense of full proprietorship of the state, he takes a deep and sympathetic interest in the welfare of the people under his protection and thus is able to atone for the almost inevitable inefficiency and lethargy of his service to some extent. But even under his the subordinate service is ill-qualified to accept the responsibility of administrative work and thus the lower service is not likely to be very much better than that of other States even under an able Chief. Besides we cannot usually expect to have a succession of enlightened Rulers. The service in smaller Native States is thus bound by its very nature, to be inefficient and discontented so as no remedy is found for the inherent difficulties of such an Administration.

Inefficiency

This condition of chronic inefficiency cannot be allowed to continue for ever. That would be against the principles of British Rule and it would, besides, be against all ideas of justice and equity to condemn the subjects of Native States to be perpetually under a lethargic and an inefficient Administration.

The smaller States then will have to face one of the following two alternatives. They must either content to be absorbed in British Territory or in that of a bigger neighbour or they must find some means of so improving their Administration as to make it efficient and progressive.

The first alternative is not to be thought of as the states are protected by Treaty obligations and promises which the British Government would never allow to be broken. Native States ought therefore to bestir themselves and try to make their Administration what it ought to be.

Of all the enormous difficulties in the way of their progress there are two that are of supreme importance. One is the scattered nature of their territory and the other is the scantiness of their resources.

Exchange of Territory

The first great difficulty may be minimised by suitable exchange of territory with the British Government or with that of the neighbouring Native States. It is said that the people under British Administration are unwillingness to be transferred to the care of the Native States. The unwillingness is not entirely due to the change of Rulers but also to the dislike for any new departure from the established state of affairs. It is also doubtful If the subjects of Native States would be willing to be incorporated in a British Taluka. It would not be bad at any rate to make a beginning by arranging for the exchange of territory between one Native States and another. Much more homogeneity can be achieved even by this and when the beneficial results of that are apparent, there would be time for the exchange of territory with the British Government. As things stand, the cost of all inspection work is very much more than it would

otherwise be, besides, the administration of justice becomes inconvenient and expensive both to the people and to the state. But such of the British Government. If the necessary adjustment of territory could be made, the Government will have conferred a great boon on the small States and will have greatly added to the peace and happiness of their subjects.

Federal Administration

In the next place the states have to try and curtail all unnecessary expenditure so as to be able to spend more on certain Department that need more money (E.g., that Education and the Public Works Department). Both these ends can be achieved by forming a sort of federation among neighbouring states whose subject are connected together by sympathies of the same language and the same condition of social and religious life. The federation would consist in each state agreeing to keep under joining Administration some of its departments like Education and Public Works, Medical Relief, Forest etc. I am not including the Department of Justice and police in the common Department on account of the ideas of prestige that go with them... but these are the Departments that would benefit he subjects most under a joint Administration of the Federated states and the sooner they are put under a Federal Administration, the better. The Federal Department would be more ably conducted in this manner as they would be administered on a larger scale and wit comparatively less cost. More funds would thus be available for each of these jointly worked Departments. It would be possible to pay the inspecting officer much better and that with fair chances changes of promotion. Such condition would attract really able people into the service of the small Federal States; and the Departments

could be maintained at a fairly high standard of efficiency. There should be a Federal Council to supervise the common Administration on which each State should have only one vote and in vital questions only a majority of 4-5 of the Federal Council should have a deciding voice.

Advantages

Such a scheme, however, presupposes a willingness on the part of individual Chiefs and Rulers to forego their sole proprietorship and permit the individual will to merge into the will of the Federal Council. The fixing of an appropriate 'Civil List' for the personal expenses of the Chief would help to facilitate matters in this respect. When the matter of administrative expenses is rendered independent of the personal concerns of the Ruler, the Administrator would not be hampered by considerations of personal likes and dislikes in questions of public interests and utility. Each individual Ruler would be compensated for giving up his sole mastery over certain ill-provided and ill-managed Departments of his Administration by having the control of at least a partial control of the Department he loves in a well organised and fully equipped condition over a much larger area than that of his small state.

The next question that claims our careful attention is the working of these common Departments by a Federal Council. Indians have always been blamed for not being able heartily to co-operate, so much so that they are said to be unable to successfully manage even a Joint Stock Company. It should be easier for Chiefs and Rulers who have an inherited training for Administrative work than any body else to co-operate for the general welfare. The scheme

would have a great education influence and in course of time it should be possible to admit representatives of the subjects to such a Federal Council.

But there can not be such a Federal without Government countenance and support in the absence of which the scheme would be almost against the Treaty Obligation of the States. Some sanction is also necessary for the smooth and efficient working of the Federal Council. Such and similar schemes have often been discussed casually, but though approved in principle, they have always been dropped as impracticable. But the strong and sympathetic co-operation and support of Government should surely be able to bring the scheme into the world of facts from the world of fancy. Government alone can arrange for the training of Chiefs and Rulers in such a way as to make them feel the responsibility that lies on their shoulders and can educate the Rulers and their subjects to realise the advantages of a fixed Civil List and of the importance of federation in any scheme of Reform regarding the Administration of the smaller States.

Appendix - B

Chronology of Important Events

Year	Events
1701	Birth date of Venkatrao Narayan, the son of Naro Mahadev
1703	Venkatrao became a servant of Kapshikar Ghorpade
1722	Chhatrapati of Satara gave Venkatrao a village Shirdhon in inam
1724, March 18	Venkatrao was presented with a separate Saranjamjabata named as 'Mamalakat Madar' by the Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaja of Satara
1745	Venkatrao died at Sadalage
1783	Death of Anubai Ghorpade
1870	Birth year of Narayanrao Govindrao alias Babasaheb Ghorpade

- 1872, March 5** The first school for girls began at Ichalkaranji
- 1876, August 10** Adoption Ceremony of Babasaheb Ghorpade
- 1885, December 5** Vidyamandir, the school no.3 was established for backward classes
- 1892, June 18** Shrimant Babasaheb accessed to the Ichalkaranji gadi
- 1893, September 1** Foundation of Ichalkarnji Municipality
- 1898** Babasaheb Ghorpade founded Govindrao English School at Ichalkaranji
- 1910** Babasaheb Ghorpade built a building for prison.
- 1913** Babasaheb Ghorpade built a building for hospital.
- 1921** Foundation of Ichalkaranji Central Co-operative Bank
- 1930, April 19** The Ajara Taluka Praja Sabha held at Ajara
- 1932, April 6** Narayanrao Babasaheb Ghorpade started Venkatrao Anglo-vernacular high school at Ajara

- 1935** A maternity hospital was opened
- 1938, Sept. 30** Meeting of the leaders of Praja Sabha at Ajara
- 1939, January 26** Foundation date of the 'Ichalkaranji jahagir Praja Sangh'
- 1939, February 6** Foundation date of the 'Kolhapur Sansthan Prja Parishads'
- 1939, February 24** About 10,000 subjects took out a march to the Jahagirdar's palace under the leadership of K.R.Patil, the president of the Ichalkaranji Praja Sangh
- 1939, February 26** Praja Sangh demanded five demands to Kolhapur darabar
- 1939, May** Kolhapur Darabar issued a proclamation
- 1941, July 10** The Ichalkaranji jahagir Praja Sangh was declared unlawful and D.T.Chivate, the main leader of Praja Sangh was removed from the Kolhapur state
- 1942, August 16** Lathi charge that occurred at Kolhapur
- 1942, October 17** Lathi charge that occurred at Ichalkaranji

- 1943, December** Narayanrao Babasaheb Ghorpade expired
- 1945, June 3** Ichalkaranji Municipality became people's representatives' body and D.T.Chivate became a first president of Ichalkaranji Municipality.
- 1949, March 1** Ichalkaranji jahagir, alongwith Kolhapur state was merged in the Indian Republic.

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